

Kamilia to work with Shahrizat, but insists grassroots unhappy
The Malaysian Insider
March 23, 2012
By Ida Lim

KUALA LUMPUR, March 23 — Wanita Umno vice chief Datuk Kamilia Ibrahim today pledged to work with Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil for the 13th general elections but did not retract her earlier call for the Wanita Umno chief to step down.

"I pledge that I will work with Shahrizat to ensure Barisan Nasional (BN)'s victory in the coming elections," said Kamilia in a press conference at Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) today.

She added that she held great responsibility to ensure that Wanita Umno "moves together as a team" when speaking to reporters after a closed door meeting between Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Wanita Umno members.

When asked if she would retract her statement urging Shahrizat to quit her party post, she replied that "my statement is based on the grassroots".

Kamilia, one of Shahrizat's more vocal critics from within Umno, said in a report in The Star yesterday that it was not enough for her chief to step down as federal minister next month and urged the latter to also retire as head of Wanita Umno and Wanita Barisan Nasional (BN).

Wanita Umno cheer on Shahrizat during the wing's gathering March 23 2012. — Picture by Choo Choy May

She claimed that the public thought something was "morally and politically wrong" with how National Feedlot Corporation (NFCorp) was run and that this was affecting polls preparations.

NFCorp is headed by Shahrizat's husband, Datuk Seri Mohamad Salleh Ismail, who has been charged with criminal breach of trust for allegedly misusing the cattle-rearing company's federal loan.

"I've gone down to the grassroots and this is generally what the members are saying. They are finding it hard to meet the people when the image of their leader is tarnished," Kamilia told the daily.

"People are poking fun at Wanita and calling us 'cows'. The Wanita grassroots are saying it's difficult to work (for the general election)... As a leader, we have to listen to what the grassroots are saying."

But she was criticised by Umno secretary general Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor for making such a statement.

Copyright © 2012 The Malaysian Insider

Source: <http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/kamilia-to-work-with-shahrizat-but-insists-grassroots-unhappy//>