

**Shahrizat's Decision Is Appropriate, Says PM**  
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PEKAN, March 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the decision by Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil to step down as the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development is appropriate and correct.

The Prime Minister said the resignation was perceived as a sacrifice in the interest of the government and party.

"Although there is no proof so far that she had committed any offence in terms of law, because the NFA issue has drawn controversy and dispute, she was willing to withdraw from the government," he told reporters before attending a 'tahlil' prayer for the late Tun Abdul Razak at Masjid Sultan Ahmad Shah, Pekan, here Sunday.

Shahrizat, at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur today, announced her withdrawal as the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development when her tenure as Senator expires on April 8.

However, Shahrizat said she would remain as Wanita Umno head and Barisan Nasional (BN) Wanita head.

When asked of her status in the party, the Prime Minister said her position in the party was not an issue because it was different from her post in the cabinet.

"This is because with regard to the NFC case, the debate was her position as a minister in the cabinet," he said.

Najib also urged party members, especially Wanita Umno members, to continue supporting Shahrizat as the head of the Wanita movement.

"Give her the support and cooperation because she (Shahrizat) has given her commitment to lead Wanita Umno and turn the movement into an important machinery for the general election," he said.

Asked of her replacement in the cabinet, Najib said the matter would be decided later since Shahrizat had a few more weeks before vacating her seat.

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