

**Najib Takes Over From Shahrizat**  
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TEMERLOH, April 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that he would be assuming the role of Women, Family and Community Development Minister after Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil steps down from the post when her term as Dewan Negara member ends Sunday (April 8).

Announcing this when opening the Pahang "Karisma 1Azam" programme here, Najib also recorded his and the government's appreciation to Shahrizat for her contributions while handling the portfolio.

Also present at the event which was attended by some 20,000 people were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

On March 11, Shahrizat had announced that she would step down as Women, Family and Community Development Minister on April 8 in light of the National Feedlot Centre (NFC) controversy.

The Prime Minister, however, did not say how long he would be acting in the post.

Shahrizat, however, is still maintaining her Wanita Umno chief post.

Najib said Shahrizat had pledged to continue giving her best as Wanita Umno chief.

"Shahrizat has promised me that as Wanita Umno chief, she will assure a big win for the Barisan Nasional in the upcoming general election," he said.

In his speech, Najib also requested all party and government leaders to continue with efforts to win the hearts and minds of the people. "I dare say that the people are gradually coming back to us, their affection for us is rising.

"Sharizat emphasised the word 'sayang' (love) during her ministership, if the people give their support, it comes from their minds, but if they give their love, it comes from their hearts.

"When it comes from the heart, the choice will definitely be the one and only (Barisan Nasional)," he said.

Najib said the people would be able to evaluate what had been accomplished by the government in an effort to improve their livelihood through various assistance rendered.

He said the people could also gauge the promises fulfilled by the BN-led government compared to that of the opposition, which had failed to honour their election undertakings.

The NFC became embroiled in controversy after the company running it, NFC Corp, which is managed by Shahrizat's husband, failed to meet scheduled targets for beef production. The

government had provided a RM250 million soft loan for the project.

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