

**Bakti Programmes Should Put People First - Rosmah
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 20 (Bernama) -- The Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Bakti) should organise activities which place the people first.

Its head, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, who is the prime minister's wife, said the duties and responsibilities of Bakti were now more challenging and required members to work together to realise its agenda.

"The strength of an organisation is in the hands of its members. If all work together and cooperate, the association will endure, expand and be respected," she said at the opening of the 37th Bakti general meeting here Thursday.

The meeting was officiated by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Nancy Shukri.

Also present were the deputy prime minister's wife, Puan Sri Norainee Abdul Rahman, who is also Bakti deputy head, and Bakti honorary member Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, who is wife of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Rosmah said Bakti's efforts had lightened the burden of the government and provided aid to those in need.

She said Bakti members should be aware of their role as wives of the nation's leaders and be prepared to provide voluntary service.

"Our husbands' positions bring about a huge and heavy responsibility. As such, our responsibility as wives is to lighten their burden by conducting charity work through Bakti," she added.

Meanwhile, Nancy suggested that Bakti members organise specific programmes for young women to expose them to current issues, and their rights as women.

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