

Minister derides MP for questioning PM's wife over Permata programme
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By Mohd Farhan Darwis

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim today accused a PAS lawmaker of having "ill intentions" against the wife of the prime minister, after he was questioned on the Permata Negara early education programme.

Shahidan shot back at Rantau Panjang MP Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff, saying although her dressing suggests that she is a Muslim, "but your mouth...".

"I pray that Allah open your heart to make it greater," the Shahidan, the Arau MP said.

Siti Zailah had asked why the government was not developing agencies such as Kemas, and was only focusing on Permata, whose patron is Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

"Is this an agenda to raise the prime minister's wife's name?" she asked during question time in Parliament today.

Shahidan replied that Rosmah had not received anything in return for her work in Permata.

"No. Permata does not raise Rosmah's name: Permata raises the country's name.

"The Permata programme is very good, and the prime minister's wife has received no payment for her services to the country.

"It is not nice for us to think ill of those who serve the country," Shahidan added.

He also called for PAS and PKR to apply Permata's curriculum in child education, saying that it was recognised internationally. – June 18, 2014.