

BN Wanita Forms Action Plan To Raise Women Participation In Politics

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- Barisan Nasional (BN) Wanita has formed an action plan to raise women participation to 30 per cent of the nation's total womenfolk in the political arena.

Umno Wanita vice chief Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun said the plan was agreed at a meeting on Women Law Drafting Caucus Retreat, which was attended by BN Wanita Members of Parliament and state assemblywomen Saturday.

"At 14 percent currently, Malaysian women participation in Parliament is far lower than other Asean countries, with Malaysia at the seventh ranking out of eight Asean countries," she told reporters after chairing the meeting here.

Azizah, who is also Deputy Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said Filipinas topped the list with 27.3 per cent women participation in Parliament, followed by Singapore (25.3 per cent), Laos (25 per cent), Vietnam (24.3 per cent), Cambodia (20.3 per cent), Indonesia (16.8 per cent), Malaysia (14 per cent) and Myanmar (5.6 per cent).

She hoped BN would view seriously the BN Wanita's action plan by taking into account the participation of women in the coming general election.

Efforts to increase women participation in the political arena was also in response to the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who encouraged women in the country to work out of the norm by being involved in politics.

Azizah, who is also UMNO Wanita Law Drafting Caucus chairman, said an increase in women participation in politics could also help the government in playing a more active role in managing community-related matters.

The retreat was organised by UMNO Wanita with its membership comprising Members of Parliament, senators and state assemblywomen from throughout the country, aimed at empowering its members as decision makers at all levels of the government.

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