

**Mandatory Nurseries Can Be Considered To Assist Career Women - Najib
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PUTRAJAYA, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said measures like making it mandatory for private companies and government departments to provide day-care centres or nurseries (Taskas) at their premises might be considered to increase the number of women in the workforce.

"Now we have a target to have 59 per cent of women in the workforce because many (women) opted out from the labour force for various reasons.

"So we hope through certain efforts like making it mandatory for private companies and government departments to provide nurseries, women will pursue careers," he said.

Najib said this when witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Women Entrepreneurship and Professional Development Advisor Office (KIW) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) here today.

KIW was represented by its advisor Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil while UKM by its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali. Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Najib also suggested that public listed and private companies undertake 'matching' programmes to appoint qualified women to their boards or top management.

He said KIW which comes under the Prime Minister's Department had trained more than 900 women with potential to become company directors.

He added that the government also wanted to see more women participating in entrepreneurship, not only at the local level but internationally.

"There must be breakout strategies from micro-credit...meaning rising up from being a small entrepreneur to becoming a regional player and global champion," he said.

On the MoU, Najib called on KIW and UKM to strengthen the intellectual foundation among women so as to make them the "strongest force" in the country.

Meanwhile, Shahrizat said the MoU was a KIW initiative to forge a smart partnership to spur entrepreneurial and professional development of women.

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