

**Government Will Continue To Champion Women's Involvement in Various Fields – PM
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- The government will continue to champion women's participation in all fields as well as providing equal opportunities regardless of gender, race and religion, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said among the initiatives provided are support and aid in business for women and any quarter keen to succeed in their respective sectors.

"The government has initiated numerous avenues to help not only women but all groups with ideas and initiatives to succeed in the business field via micro-credit schemes, Malaysia Trust Fund Initiative, National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund, SME Corp and many more," he said.

The Prime Minister said he took cognizance on the aid divide in terms of support for women starting out in business, specifically those conducting online business.

"God willing, from time to time, we will look and find ways to close the gap," he said via his latest jottings in his blog NajibRazak.com today titled "Women: Catalyst to National Development."

In his notes, Najib also shared the topic of his conversation with several famous and successful personalities in their respective fields who joined him for dinner at the Modern Asian Diner Restaurant in Setapak yesterday.

Among those present were eye surgeon Prof Dr Muhaya Mohamad, young fashion designer Fuzana Mokhtaza, national gymnast Farah Ann Abdul Hadi, crime analyst Kamal Affendi Abdul Hashim, non-government organisation Women: Girls and Kakiseni President Low Ngai Yuen and Naujawan Sabha Malaysia Sikh Woman and Youth development Exco Amreeta Kaur Dhillon.

"The main topic of our conversation touched on the role of women in the national development agenda, in terms of involvement in the manpower sector whether the private or public sector, education, and the balance between work and family," he said.

Najib said they shared several sound ideas, among others, Fuzana raised matters concerning business opportunities for women, suggesting more aid and specific funds be provided to help professional women in the business sector.

He said he also informed them on the government's plans to continue endorsing women as requested by Kamal Affendi during the dinner, adding that much success had been achieved in terms of women's involvement in the field of education, work environment and many others.

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