

Budget 2018 Provides Extra-ordinary Opportunities For Women

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 27 (Bernama) -- Budget 2018 provides extra-ordinary opportunities to all groups of people, including women, to attain success, especially in economy and entrepreneurship, said Advisor on Women Entrepreneurship and Professional Development in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

She said the announcement on 2018 as the Women Empowerment Year was proof that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and the Barisan Nasional (BN) government kept its word to provide a living ecosystem and a friendly and ideal employment for Malaysian women.

"In ensuring the national economy continues to be strong and at the time, giving priority to the people's needs, the 2018 Budget 2018 which was tabled by the Prime Minister today clearly protects and understands the needs of the people and maintains Malaysia's competitiveness in domestic and international investments," she said in a statement today.

Shahrizat, who is also Chairman of the Women's Innovation Academy (MyWIN), expressed her gratitude to Najib for the RM20 million allocation to conduct training and entrepreneurship programmes, including the PEAK Entrepreneur Programme under MyWIN Academy.

"This initiative will certainly boosts MyWIN Academy's spirit to be a renowned academy that will empower women entrepreneurs to generate the country's economic and social values based on innovations," she said.

Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim described the 2018 Budget as significant with the role of women in developing the family

institution, as well as improving the wellbeing of the people, thus empowering Malaysian women.

She said the proposal for the local government authorities (PBT) to make compulsory for all new office buildings to be equipped with childcare centres, beginning with Kuala Lumpur, would encourage women to continue to have a career.

The government, she said, was also concerned with efforts to cultivate a saving culture for the TN50 generation with each child born between Jan 1, 2018 and 2022, to be given a gift of RM200 to start a fund called the Malaysian Child Trust Fund 2050 (ADAM50).

Rohani advised women to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the government to be successful.

"And, with 2018 as the Women Empowerment Year, it will be a catalyst for the ministry to highlight all its achievements through various programmes which will boost the capabilities of women's abilities," she said when met at the Parliament lobby.

Other benefits given to women include the requirement that 30 percent of the board of directors in a government-linked company and statutory bodies should comprise women and the mandatory maternity leave for the private sector to be increased from 60 to 90 days.

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