

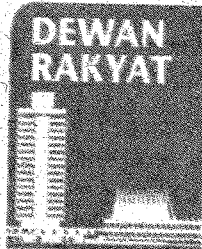
Pas 'using women to gain political mileage'

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PAS is exploiting women for political reasons, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid said.

When Ismail Noh (Pas-Pasir Mas), during the debate on the Supplementary Supply Bill 2007, called for greater efforts to eradicate poverty, Azmi stood up and asked: "How is the government going to eradicate poverty if the Pas-led Kelantan government doesn't allow its women to work?"

Azmi said Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat had made the call and added that Pas only used women to gain political mileage without



■ Reports by M.K. Megan, Eileen Ng and June Ramli

offering them any incentives or positions.

Ismail said Pas leaders had only insisted that women

should not work at night.

"Crimes against women happen at night. Therefore, we felt it was not suitable for women to work at night," he said.

He added that Nik Aziz was misunderstood as he wanted employers to give priority to women who are not pretty.

"This is because pretty women have a higher chance of getting married earlier and their husbands would determine if they should continue working.

"For those who are not so pretty, their chances of getting married are slimmer and they should at least be given the first choice for employment."