



MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OFFENSIVE AND ABUSIVE LANGUAGE CANNOT BE TOLERATED IN PRU15

PantauPRU15 is deeply concerned with the use of abusive language and derogatory remarks such as “betina” and references to physical appearance made by speakers in the GRU15 campaign. This behaviour and attitude exposes the true nature of individuals seeking the honourable position of lawmakers. It further belittles and shames the august houses of legislature to which they aspire to be members and the nation as whole.

Such remarks and the perpetuation of such abuse violate the nation’s aspiration for a gender sensitive democracy. Derogatory remarks further erode the trust of Malaysians, in particular Malaysian women, on how gender issues would be taken into consideration by the country’s leaders.

Gender-sensitivity and basic respect reflects a mature and inclusive democratic society and should be a feature of election campaigns.

NCWO strongly calls on all speakers to maintain decorum and discipline at all times and in all speeches. Just reflect on your feelings if such offensive words are used to describe your family members such as wife and daughter. Candidates who are sexually harassed should make police reports.

We should continuously strive to focus on significant policy matters and deliberation towards more effective and meaningful outcomes for voters, including upholding the rights of women as equal members of this nation.

We must have zero tolerance for offensive language and sexist remarks thrown at female candidates. It is time all political parties initiate steps to improve the quality of member’s participation in election campaigns and ensure that members conduct themselves in a dignified manner reflective of their position as representatives of political parties.

#wanitapemimpinrakyat #min30peratuswanita #morewomenbettergovernance

