

DATE: **30 APRIL 2014 (WEDNESDAY)**

MEDIA: **THE STAR – RUNAWAY MAIDS AND FEES DRAW SHAHRIZAT’S IRE – PG.16**

## Runaway maids and fees draw Shahrizat’s ire

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The increasing number of runaway maids has prompted Wanita Umno to push for reduced fees and getting agencies to be more accountable when domestic helpers desert their employers.

"It is high time the Government resolves maid issues," said movement chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat

Abdul Jalil.

She will lead a delegation to meet the relevant ministries to present the movement's case as soon as possible, she told reporters at the Wanita Umno office at Menara Dato Onn here yesterday.

"At about RM8,000, the current fee (for hiring the maids) is too high for the average household.

"We propose the maximum fee to be about RM4,000 to RM5,000," she said.

Asked if the proposed amount was sufficient for foreign and local agencies, Shahrizat said their profitability should not be affected.

"I feel if the agencies reduce the hiring fee and make it more affordable to a wider market, they can

expand their business and will not make a loss," she said, urging the agencies to take more responsibility when maids flee.

"All maid agencies should be fully responsible to replace runaway and problematic maids within two years of their contract, without additional costs to the employers."

DATE: 30 APRIL 2014 (WEDNESDAY)

MEDIA: THE SUN – ‘REDUCE COST OF HIRING MAIDS’- PG.06

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## **‘Reduce cost of hiring maids’**

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Wanita Umno has urged the government to reduce the cost of bringing in foreign maids to a maximum of RM5,000, from the current RM8,000.

Its chief Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the cost is currently very high and burdening the employers, adding that the employer would lose a lot should the maid run away after recruitment.

“This matter could be considered a national economic issue because when the maid runs away, mothers will have to leave their jobs to look after the children. This will cost the country the loss of a talented female workforce,” she said yesterday.

Shahrizat said foreign maid agencies must take responsibility for workers who

run away or are problematic during the two-year contract and replace them with new maids, without charging more.

From 2008 to 2013, there were 105,119 reported cases of maids running away, causing a loss of RM1 billion to employers.

Wanita Umno also suggested that the government set up a one-stop centre to record details of the maid, serve as a complaint centre for employers who face problems relating to maids and provide assistance such as legal, financial and medical services to maids and employers.

She said Wanita Umno would have discussions with the ministry and related agencies on ways to resolve the matter in the near future. – Bernama