SHELTER FOR TROUBLED WOMEN BY JULY

By Sandra Sokial

KOTA KINABALU: Troubled women will have a place to turn to soon with the completion of Rumah Perlindungan Wanita (Women Protection Home), or Rupawan in short, by July.

Community Development and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Azizah Mohd Dun in disclosing this yesterday added that Rupawan, which when literally translated means 'pretty', is offering shelter to women aged 18 and above.

“The Home will open its doors to provide shelter for troubled women, for instance those facing family problems or those who do not have anyone or anywhere to turn to, to mention some.

“This is also the place for those who are neglected by their own family, who are not getting the support and sympathy from anyone,” she explained.

Rupawan, Azizah added, offers counselling services by the state government and Welfare Services Department, and currently is in the process of appointing their counsellors.

Speaking to reporters after launching a seminar dubbed Sebenih Kasih, Sejuta Harapan, Melestarikaharapa Bahagia, she stressed the services provided were not meant to encourage social problems but rather to protect the welfare of those ill-treated.

She said in efforts to reduce social ills, her ministry is actively conducting programmes to promote activities to strengthen the family institution.

“Such as the programme today (yesterday), it is organised to promote programmes that will bring family members closer, starting from the younger generation.

“The young will one day get married and we hope through programmes like today (yesterday), it would create happy families. Therefore, it is important to educate them from young and instill family values among them,” she said.

Also present were Sabah Women Advisor’s Council, Datuk Mariati Robert, the ministry’s permanent secretary Datuk Asnimar Sukardi, and Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Sabah branch rector Dr Abdul Kadir Rosline, to mention some.