

## Malaysian women in local boards higher than Asia's 29%

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KUALA LUMPUR — Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim said Malaysian women currently make up 16% of the boards of public-listed companies (PLCs) and is on track to reach the 30% mark.

“We are almost there and we have to work on it to the extent that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has to name and shame those government-linked companies (GLCs) and PLCs to the public,” she told *Malay Mail* on the sidelines after the official launch of the Women in Leadership Summit & Exhibition 2017 here yesterday.

She said the naming of GLCs and PLCs that have no women at all on their boards will take place by January.

“The prime minister said even though a board is full with male candidates, they just need to create a position for a female to be onboard,” she said.

Rohani said in the government sector, women make up 32.5% of the Jusa C Grade and above staff, and it is found that 34% of management positions in Malaysia are held by women — this is 5% higher than last year and considerably above



**Rohani says Malaysian women hold 34% of management positions in the country, higher than the Asian average of 29%.**

the average for Asia, which is at 29%.

“Basically, after reaching more than 34%, we have to acknowledge by merit and also accessing their performance,” she said.

She noted the increment for women onboard in the government sector is volatile due to the turnover rate in every department.

Rohani in her key speech note said that since 1957, Malaysian women have made significant progress in most areas.

“Our achievement undoubtedly has been facilitated by inclusive policies and action plans developed by our government.

“This summit provides us with an opportunity to mark the gains we have achieved together, as well as acknowledge existing gaps,” she said.

She said while women have made strides in education and career, there is still a woeful lack of women in the upper reaches of science and technology, business and education, not to mention politics and government.

“Women comprise around 15.3 million of the total population which is close to half of Malaysia’s total population.

“Hence, women have to be an equal force in contributing to the economy,” she said.