ROLE OF WOMEN IN CIVIL SERVICE SECTOR BEING LOOKED INTO

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Fatimah looks as Kadim (third left) and Megir exchange the MoU documents.

KUCHING: A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between University Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) and the state civil service was signed yesterday to research woman's role in the civil service sector.

According to Minister of Welfare, Women and Community Wellbeing, Datuk Fatimah Abdullah, the government had announced in 2004 a policy whereby women should make up at least 30 per cent of decision-making position in the public sector.

"In 2004, only 18.8 per cent of women held the post. The target was achieved five years later at the federal level when it touched the 30.5 per cent mark.

"It further increased in 2014 to 32.5 per cent, but at the state level it was only 12.6 per cent in 2011," Fatimah said when witnessing the signing ceremony.

On the MoU inked yesterday, Fatimah said the research was necessary to see how plans and polices were doing with regards to the state government's goal on gender equity.

Earlier on, Unimas vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi said their Faculty of Social Science had a long relationship with the state government on research into woman's position in Sarawak.

"The first study was commissioned in 2010 by the Woman's Bureau while the study on gender equity in the state civil service was done in 2003," he said.

Kadim said the research had two-fold objectives, which were to identify the bottlenecks in the promotion of women in the state civil service and to provide a baseline data for future comparison.

"The research results will provide the state government a better view in its mission to uplift the position of women in the civil service."

He said the research would be looking at the state civil service, state statutory bodies, local councils and federal departments throughout the state.

Permanent secretary to the Ministry of Women, Welfare and Community Wellbeing, Megir Gumbek, was also present at the event.