

Mahathir on marriage and the career girl

Don't waste your time, women urged

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tuesday.

WORKING women should not give up their profession once they get married because it will be a waste of skilled resources, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"Women should as far as possible continue to give the nation the benefit of their specialised abilities acquired over a period of time," he said.

He was speaking on Partnership in Development at a seminar organised by the National Council of Women's Organisation at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka.

The five-day seminar, which began yesterday, is being attended by women leaders from all over the country. The theme is the Role of Women in a Changing World.

"The wife by virtue of being a wife is already a partner in development," Dr. Mahathir said.

Thus, the working wife is an even greater partner as she plays a dual role in national development, he added.

Required skills

He called on women to make full use of educational facilities open to them.

Women, once equipped with the necessary skills,

can contribute towards national development by going into partnership with men in business, he added.

"Women must, however, remember that partnership and equality are not synonymous," Dr. Mahathir said.

He said one must not struggle for equality of partnership to obscure developmental objectives.

"Women must remember that almost every developing country is short of manpower and this includes skilled women," he added.

Nowadays, with the new breed of liberated women who have ventured into fields which were once dominated by men, women should have no problem in going into any partnership.

However, Dr. Mahathir advised women that for any partnership to succeed, there must be understanding and co-operation.