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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 15 (BERNAMA)— EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAYS THE RELUCTANCE OF SOME HIGHLY QUALIFIED WOMEN TEACHERS TO TEACH IN RURAL SCHOOLS CAN WIDEN THE GAP BETWEEN INTELLECTUALS AND THE COMMON PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO NARROW THE EDUCATION GAP AND IMPROVE THE STATUS OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUP IN THE COUNTRY WOULD NOT SUCCEED IF THESE INTELLECTUALS DID NOT HELP THOSE WHO WERE STILL LAGGING BEHIND.

AS THE ELITE GROUP, HE SAID, THEY SHOULD BE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COMMUNITY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS IN A SPEECH READ BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER, ENCIK CHAN SIANG SUN, AT THE CLOSING OF A TWO-DAY SEMINAR ON +THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ITS IMPLICATIONS+ AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA HERE TODAY. —BERNAMA MORE 1745/18

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HOWEVER, HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE SUCCESS AND DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVED BY WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

HE SAID THE HIGH STANDARD OF EDUCATION ACHIEVED BY MALAYSIAN WOMEN HAD BROUGHT ABOUT A GROUP WHO COULD THINK, TALK AND ACT TOWARDS IMPROVING THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY.

IT WAS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO GIVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES TO THE PEOPLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR SEX, TO CONTRIBUTE ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITIES HE SAID.

HE ADDED THAT THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN FIELD DOMINATED BY MEN IN THE PAST WAS A HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT MALAYSIAN WOMEN WOULD ACHIEVE THEIR FREEDOM ON PAR WITH WOMEN IN DEVELOPED NATIONS WITHOUT NEGLECTING THEIR ORIENTAL AND MORAL VALUES. —BERNAMA 1750/18