

MAHATHIR - WOMEN  
BM

82 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, AUG. 25 (BERNAMA) -- THE PROGRESS OF WOMEN THAT IS NOT BASED ON SPIRITUAL MATURITY IS NOT TRUE PROGRESS, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

WOMEN'S PROGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY SHOULD NOT BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, SOCIAL STATUS, ECONOMICS OR THEIR ROLE IN POLITICS ONLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN OPENING THE WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS HERE.

HE REMINDED THE WOMEN THAT IF THEY WERE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR WORK WITHOUT FIRM SPIRITUAL VALUES, THEY MIGHT FAIL IN THEIR ROLE IN THEIR FAMILIES.

"UNFORTUNATELY, THIS FAILURE IS DIFFICULT TO BE ASSESSED BY ANYONE BUT IT HAS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS," HE SAID.

HE SUGGESTED THAT THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT BE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR WOMEN BY WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY. -- MORE 1910/MB  
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HE SAID THE DILEMMA FACING WOMEN TODAY WAS HOW TO COMPROMISE THEIR PRIMARY ROLES AS A HOUSE WIFE AND A WORKING MOTHER.

IN THE WEST, THIS DILEMMA SURFACED SINCE THE 1960'S THAT THE EQUAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT EMERGED.

"SOME OF THE WOMEN SEE THE PROBLEMS OF WOMEN ONLY FROM THE WOMEN'S POINT OF VIEW," HE SAID.

HE SAID THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT HAD TRAPPED THE WOMEN IN VARIOUS ACTIVITIES WHICH ULTIMATELY DEGRADE THE WOMEN THEMSELVES.

HE WAS HAPPY THAT THESE ACTIVITIES HAD NOT INFLUENCED COMPLETELY THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

"IN GENERAL, WE ARE ABLE TO TAKE WHAT IS SUITABLE AND THROW OUT WHAT IS NOT NEEDED," HE SAID.

IN THE WEST, THE ATMOSPHERE HAD CHANGED AND NOW THERE WAS AN AWARENESS THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS NOT UNLIMITED FREEDOM BUT RESPECT AMONG MEN AND THE WOMEN WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE FAMILIES AND TO SOCIETY.

-- MORE 2025/MB

N170 (F)  
MAHATHIR - WOMEN 3 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FAMILY AND WORK WERE EQUALLY IMPORTANT NOT ONLY FOR WOMEN BUT FOR THE MEN AS WELL.

"THE QUESTION IS TO FIND A SOLUTION NOT FROM THE MEN'S AND WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES UNTIL BOTH COME INTO CONFLICT, BUT FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY AND SOCIETY," HE SAID.

THE PROCESS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY IN MALAYSIA MUST BE DIRECTED AT THE NEEDS OF THE FAMILY WHICH MUST BE HEALTHY AND DYNAMIC WHERE THE FAMILY PROBLEMS SHOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH HUSBANDS AND WIVES' ROLES AS PARENTS AND WITH THEIR WORK, HE STRESSED.

HE FELT THAT IN DEVELOPING MALAYSIA, THE FOUNDATION OF THE WOMEN'S STRUGGLE WAS EASTERN VALUES WHICH MUST BE INCULCATED AND VALUED BY THE WOMEN THEMSELVES.

BESIDES THIS, EFFORTS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STUDY ALL ASPECTS WHICH COULD ENSURE THE WOMEN'S POSITION IN THE LEGAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FIELDS. -- MORE 2035/MB

N171 (F)  
MAHATHIR - WOMEN 4 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT EASTERN VALUES ENSURED JUSTICE -- IT DID NOT DEGRADE THE MEN NOR LOWER THE POSITION OF THE WOMEN.

"IT IS A NATURAL AND SIMPLE STEP TO BE NURTURED BECAUSE ITS WIDE ACCEPTANCE WILL SAFEGUARD AND ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF ALL," HE SAID.

AMONG THOSE PRESENT AT THE CEREMONY WERE DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH, TENGKU PUAN BESAR KURSIAH AND TAN SRI FATIMAH HASHIM, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS (NCWO) WHICH ORGANISED THE CELEBRATIONS. -- BERNAMA 2037/MR