

MAHATHIR-WOMEN
BM

84 (P)

PETALING JAYA, JULY 27 (BERNAMA) -- WORKING MOTHERS AT CERTAIN LEVELS AND UNCERTAIN SECTORS SHOULD PERHAPS GIVE UP THEIR JOB WHEN THEIR FAMILY HAS GROWN BIGGER AND THEIR HUSBANDS ARE EARNING ENOUGH TO SUPPORT A HEALTHY FAMILY, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THIS WOULD HELP ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT POLICY OF A 70 MILLION POPULATION FOR THE COUNTRY IN 115 YEARS' TIME.

HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE STRATEGIES IN POPULATION GROWTH WAS STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT AS THE FAMILY WAS THE BASIC UNIT OF A SOCIETY OR COUNTRY.

+IT IS HERE THAT WOMEN AS MOTHERS AND EDUCATORS IN THE HOME CAN PLAY A KEY ROLE,+ HE ADDED WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (INTAN) HERE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT CAMPAIGNS SUCH AS THE CURRENT BREAST-FEEDING CAMPAIGN BE HELD TO ENCOURAGE MOTHERS TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE WITH THEIR CHILDREN WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE.

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1307MST 27 07 A 4

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R E151 AAE
MAHATHIR-WOMEN 2 KUALALUMPUR

HIS SPEECH TO 70 WOMEN FROM 40 VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS MADE SEVERAL OF THE MALE GUESTS IN THE CONFERENCE HALL SMILE.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPLAINED THAT THE SUGGESTION DID NOT MEAN THE GOVERNMENT FROWNED ON WOMEN HAVING CAREERS BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT FAMILY DEVELOPMENT BE ALSO GIVEN ATTENTION.

HE HOPED WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS, FIND WAYS OF BALANCING THE NEED FOR FAMILY DEVELOPMENT WITH THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

WAYS MUST BE FOUND TO ENABLE MOTHERS TO DISCHARGE THEIR RIGHTFUL RESPONSIBILITIES TO THEIR FAMILY WHILE PURSUING CAREER OR JOE ADVANCEMENT.

HE FELT PART OF THE PROBLEM COULD BE SOLVED BY CORRECTING ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL THINKING AMONG WOMEN AND THE SOCIETY IN THE COUNTRY .--MORE

1321MST 27 07 8 4

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R E192 AAE
MAHATHIR-WOMEN 3 PETALSNG JAVA

+FOR EXAMPLE? MANY MOTHERS ARE NON BREASTFEEDING THEIR BABIES FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN ON ITS BENEFITS. SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS SHOULD ALSO BE HELD TO ENCOURAGE MOTHERS TO SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH THEIR CHILDREN AS POSSIBLE,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR FELT THERE WERE MANIFESTATIONS OF WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL LIFE VALUES BEING INFLUENCED AND TO A LESSER OR GREATER EXTENT CHANGED BY THE MARC OF PROGRESS.

WOMEN "AD IN THE PAST BEEN CARRYING OUT WORK BESIDES BRINGING UP THEIR CHILDREN AND LOOKING AFTER THE OVERALL WELFARE OF THEIR FAMILY BUT THEIR ROLE "AD NOW CHANGED DUE TO THE TEMPO OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOCIETY."

HE WAS WORRIED THAT WITH MORE MOTHERS WORKING, MANY WOULD BE FORCED TO HIRE DOMESTIC HELP TO LOOK AFTER THEIR CHILDREN AND THE HOUSE.

+WITH DOMESTIC HELP COMING AND GOING, THE CHILDREN WOULD NOT GET THE PROPER CARE AND UPBRINGING. THUS, WHILE WE ARE HAPPY WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY IN TERMS OF PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL PROGRESS, OUR FAMILY SYSTEM "AS BEEN ERODED TO SOME EXTENT. +

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MAHATHIR-WOMEN 4 PETALING JAYA

+THE RESULT IS MORE CHILDREN GETTING INVOLVED IN "ARMFUL AND UNDESIRABLE ACTIVITIES. THE ONE'S RESPONSIBLE WILL BE NOT JUST THE MOTHERS BUT ALSO THE FATHERS. +

HE HOPED MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES GAVE GREATER ATTENTION TO RECTIFYING THE PROBLEMS BROUGHT BY CONCENTRATION ON ONLY PHYSICAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE PAST.

ACCORDING TO HIM, SOCIAL CHANGES THE PAST 27 YEARS "AD BROUGHT MANY BENEFITS, BUT SOME OF THE CHANGES HAD ALSO THREATENED CULTURAL, SOCIAL, TRADITIONAL AND RELIGIOUS VALUES.

+THIS IS WHY I AM STRESSING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY DEVELOPMENT TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF STABLE, HEALTHY, INTELLIGENT, POLITE, DISCIPLINED INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BECOME RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS LATER,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID PHYSICAL PROGRESS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL ONLY IF ACCOMPANIED BY DEVELOPMENT OF THE IDEAL FAMILY IN TERMS OF SPIRITUAL AND PERSONAL QUALITIES. --MORE

1352MST 27 07 84

D031

R E154 AAE
MAHATHIR-WOMEN 5 PETALING JAYA

THE MEN NEEDED WOMEN TO "ELF BUILD A HEALTHY FAMILY AND WOMEN COULD ALSO FUNCTION AS THE MOTIVATING FORCE DETERMINING THE DIRECTION OF SOCIETY TODAY, HE SAID.

+THEY MUST PLAY THEIR ROLE ALONGSIDE THE MEN AND PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM. WOMEN ARE THE CORE OF SOCIETY. +

EARLIER, DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT SHARIFAH DORA SYED MOHAMAD SAID MALAYSIA WOULD HOST THE INTRA-ASEAN WOMEN PROJECT CONFERENCE THIS YEAR.

THE CONFERENCE IS THE CURTAIN-RAISER FOR PROGRAMMES TO MARK THE END OF THE UNITED NATIONS WOMEN'S DECADE DECLARED AT AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MEXICO IN 1975. --BERNAMA