

D849

U E678 AAE
MAHATHIR
BM

KELANA JAYA, NOV 28 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY MALAYSIAN WOMEN SHOULD BE WARY OF THE EQUALITY SLOGAN EMERGING FROM THE +WOMEN'S REVOLUTION+ IN THE WEST WHICH BEGAN AFTER THE END OF WORLD WAR 11.

THE PRIME MINISTER DESCRIBED THE SO-CALLED REVOLUTION AS A +GREAT CHALLENGE+ AND SAID THIS COULD BEAR EITHER A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY.

+STRESS WAS GIVEN TO EQUALITY FOR ALL, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, BLACK OR WHITE, RICH OR POOR, THOSE IN HIGH OR LOW STANDING AND BETWEEN THE EDUCATED AND THE ILLITERATE,+ HE SAID.

WHILE SUCH PHILOSOPHY WAS JUST AND SHOULD BE LAUDED, THE ABSENCE OF RESTRICTIONS OR EXCESSIVENESS COULD BRING ABOUT ADVERSE RESULTS, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MUSLIM WOMEN +NADWAH+ AT THE TABUNG HAJI COMPLEX HERE.

IN THE WEST, THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY HAD BEEN STRETCHED TOO FAR WHERE MEN AND WOMEN WERE EXPECTED TO BE EQUAL IN ALL ASPECTS, HE SAID. -- MORE

1257MST 28 11 86

D850

U E679 AAE
MAHATHIR 2 KELANA JAYA

+ALTHOUGH NOT EVIDENT, THIS PHILOSOPHY HAS SEEPED INTO THE MUSLIM WOMEN COMMUNITY AND HAS AT THE LEAST INFLUENCED MUSLIM WOMEN THOUGHT BOTH NEGATIVELY AND POSITIVELY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THERE WERE EXTREME RESPONSES ON THE PHILOSOPHY AMONG MUSLIM WOMEN WHERE ONE GROUP FEARED WESTERN FEMINISM AND BELIEVED THAT THERE COULD NEVER BE EQUALITY FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHILE THE OTHER CHAMPIONED FOR TOTAL EQUALITY AMONG MEN AND WOMEN.

+IN THIS CONFLICTING SITUATION, SEVERAL MUSLIM WOMEN HAD BEEN PLACED IN A DIFFICULT POSITION WHERE SOME WANTED TOTAL FREEDOM AND OTHERS TOTAL SUBJECTION TO MEN AS A SIGN OF MUSLIM PIETY,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THIS HAD WEAKENED THE ABILITY OF MUSLIM WOMEN TO PLAY A ROLE OF A MODERATOR AS REQUIRED BY ISLAM.

ISLAM, HE SAID, ACCORDED EQUAL TREATMENT FOR WOMEN BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT WHERE THERE WERE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN. -- MORE

1300MST 28 11 86

0852

U E680 AAE
MAHATHIR 3 KELANA JAYA

+THERE ARE MORE SUITABLE DUTIES AND ROLES FOR WOMEN, GOD MADE WOMEN WITH CERTAIN QUALITIES TO THEIR ADVANTAGE IN CERTAIN FIELDS. IT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT IF MEN WERE GIVEN THESE ROLES,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID IF WOMEN REALISED THIS FACT, THERE WOULD NOT BE TRIVIAL DISPUTES BY WOMEN WISHING TO ASSERT TOTAL FREEDOM AND EQUALITY WITH MEN.

HE ALSO RAPPED MEN WHO TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF THE UNCERTAINTY AMONG WOMEN REGARDING THEIR RIGHTS AND USED ISLAM FOR THEIR OWN INTEREST.

THESE PEOPLE, HE SAID, ADDED ON VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS ON WOMEN WITH REGARD TO ISLAMIC PRACTISE TO SUPPRESS THEM, ADDING THAT NO THOUGHT WAS GIVEN TO THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN CONSOLIDATING THE ISLAMIC COMMUNITY.

HE SAID THIS HAD RESULTED IN +TEMPORARY CONTRACT+ MARRIAGES WHICH GAVE PRIORITY TO MEN AND A PRACTICE OF POLYGAMY WHICH WAS NOT IN LINE WITH THAT LAID OUT IN ISLAM.

A TOTAL OF 250 WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY ARE ATTENDING THE THREE-DAY +NADWAH+ SPONSORED BY THE YAYASAN DAKWAH ISLAMIAH MALAYSIA.

ALSO PRESENT WAS THE WIFE OF THE PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DR SITI HASMAH ALI. -- BERNAMA

1306MST 28 11 86