

Role of women important in society, says PM

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KUALA TERENGGANU,
Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has said that women have an important duty and responsibility in the life of any society.

In his message in the souvenir programme to mark the launching of the Badan Amal dan Kebajikan Isteri Wakil-Wakil Rakyat Negeri Terengganu (*Serikandi*), the Prime Minister says the wives of leaders, through their association, are able to bring the people closer in a more effective way through works of charity and other planned activities.

This will create goodwill and foster friendship and understanding between the leaders and the people, he says.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir says through the launching of *Serikandi*, it will enable its members to pool their resources to help in the duties of their husbands to raise the living standards of the people in Terengganu particularly the rural community.

He is confident that *Serikandi* will complement Government efforts in bringing development to the country and further raise the living standards of women in Terengganu.

Husband's image

Serikandi was launched by Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, the wife of the Prime Minister, at Wisma Darul Iman here today.

Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah said wives of elected representatives should equip themselves with all the necessary requirements to assist their husbands in discharging their respective duties.

She as wives of leaders they should understand the duties of their husbands to create a progressive society through a clean, efficient and trustworthy leadership.

"The struggle and responsibilities of husbands as leaders should not be put aside," she said when inaugurating *Serikandi* at Wisma Darul Iman here.

Present were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Terengganu Menteri Datuk Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Yusof Noor.

Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah said as wives of leaders, they had to shoulder a heavy responsibility as they too should play their role and behave accordingly. She said a wife represented part of the husband's image and others would look at a leader, his wife and his family background as a single entity.

In view of this, they should work together to improve the situation and make up for any shortfall by acquiring more knowledge, she said.

Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah said through *Serikandi*, wives of elected representatives could get together as an active team for useful activities. —
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