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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 30 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THERE SHOULD BE NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE WORKFORCE IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

FOR MALAYSIA WHICH HAS ATTAINED A LEVEL OF PROGRESS SIMILAR TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THE RESOURCES OF MEN AND WOMEN SHOULD BE MERGED, THE PREMIER SAID.

+IF A DISTINCTION IS MADE ON WOMEN WORKFORCE, IT WILL MEAN THAT THE COUNTRY WILL STAND TO LOSE A SOURCE OF POTENTIAL WHICH COULD BE USED FOR THE COMMON GOOD,+ HE SAID AT A DINNER ORGANISED BY THE INSTITUTE KEMAJUAN WANITA (IKHWAN).

HE SAID EVERY INDIVIDUAL SHOULD MAKE ADEQUATE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE NATIONAL INTEREST BECAUSE MALAYSIA'S POPULATION OF ABOUT 16.5 MILLION WAS NOT BIG FOR ITS SIZE.

THE PRIME MINISTER URGED CERTAIN GROUPS NOT TO MERELY MAKE USE OF WOMEN TO SERVE THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS. -- MORE  
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO URGED WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS TO COOPERATE TOWARDS ENSURING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NOT TO CREATE CONFLICTS AMONG THEMSELVES AS THIS WOULD DEFEAT THE OBJECTIVE OF SERVING SOCIETY AND THE NATION.

AT THE FUNCTION, IKHWAN CONFERRED HONORARY FELLOWSHIP ON EIGHT WOMEN LEADERS WHO INCLUDED THE PRIME MINISTER'S WIFE DATUK SERI DATIN PADUKA DE SITI HASHAH, TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, TAN SRI FATIMAH HASHIM AND TAN SRI AISHAH GHANI. -- BERNAMA  
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