

'No' to working women will hurt Muslims

KUALA TERENGGANU,
Mon. — Preventing women
from working would have a
serious implication on the
development of Islam
worldwide, Prime Minister
Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir
Mohamad said.

He said Muslims repre-
sented about one fifth or
about 1,000 million of the to-
tal world population of
about 5,000 million people.

He said if women were
prevented from working,
this meant the strength of
the Muslims would be
greatly reduced and they
would not be able to com-
pete with non-Muslims who
were not only far greater in
number but whose men and
women were known for
their hardwork.

"Therefore, if we want to
develop the Muslims, we
cannot unnecessarily
weaken ourselves by sepa-
rating half of the Muslim
population," he said at the
launching of the Tereng-
ganu State Economic De-
velopment Corporation's
25th anniversary celebra-
tions at Stadium Negeri
here today.

The Prime Minister
made this remark in obvi-
ous reference to the recent
statement made by Kelan-
tan Menteri Besar Haji Nik
Abdul Aziz Nik Mat to pro-
hibit women from working
night shifts.

The Prime Minister said
bad deeds could be done
during the day, adding that
there was no need to wait
until it was dark before do-
ing something bad.