

Dr M: Greater recognition today for women's abilities

NSI - 5 NOV 1982

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The abilities of women have been accorded greater recognition today with women playing a more prominent role in politics and the government, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that in the past, women would always be given insignificant roles in a world dominated by men.

However, the situation had changed and women

were now playing a role which was just as important as men's.

In fact, he said, some 50 per cent of the workforce comprised women.

Dr Mahathir said this when he launched former Welfare Services Minister Tan Sri Aishah Ghani's memoirs, *Aishah Ghani, memoir Seorang Pejuang*, at the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) here today.

He said Aishah, the sec-

ond woman to become a minister here, was among women who had played a dynamic role in politics as well as the government.

Dr Mahathir said Aishah, who is also a former Wanita Umno leader, was initially sceptical about assuming the responsibilities of her predecessor Tan Sri Fatimah Hashim as Wanita leader and a Federal Minister.

But she was forced to as-

sume the responsibility and eventually played an important role in Wanita Umno and subsequently in the government.

Aishah had traced her experiences from the early '30s to the mid-'80s as well as the history of Wanita Umno in her book.

She was the first woman to be appointed senator in 1962 and was made a representative to the United Nations in 1973.

She received her early education at Sekolah Melayu Bukit Raya and continued her studies in Sumatra and later at the Regent Street Polytechnic London where she pursued a course in journalism.

Also present at the ceremony were International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Napsiah Omar.