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Mahathir-women

ISOLATING WOMEN FROM BUSINESS WILL HAMPER ECONOMIC GROWTH

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Isolating women from the business world will hamper the smooth process of the nation's economic development, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said women's participation in the development of the nation's economy was very important because they possessed suitable qualities.

"Furthermore, we want as many Malaysians as possible to contribute energy and expertise to the success of nation-building," he said at the award-presentation ceremony organised by Peniagawati for promising women's entrepreneurs at a hotel here.

In this connection, if women were to be isolated and they could not contribute towards nation-building efforts, half of the nation resources was already gone, he said.

For this reason, he said women's contribution must be fused together with that by other Malaysians in a continuous and vigorous manners. --more

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Mahathir-women 2 Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

Dr Mahathir said Muslims too should not neglect their women for doing so could weaken them and make them an oppressed people for generations to come.

Those who were concerned on the question of femininity to the extent of failing to see the need to protect Islam were not following the true teachings of Islam.

Any action which caused Islam and Muslims to be weak was not demanded by Islam, he said.

Thus, when talking about femininity one should also take into account other factors not just the sex of the individuals, he said.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia really needed women's contribution in its aspirations to become a developed nation. --more

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Mahathir-women 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

For example, he said women might be successful than men in business because in general they were more disciplined and thrifty.

Among the bumiputeras too, he said it was already part of their culture to see women active in business.

"It's a good culture and should be maintained but adjustment needed to be made to adapt to modern market," he said, adding that goods and services had changed considerable compared to the past, so did the volume transacted.

Dr Mahathir said women should venture into areas considered as men's domain such as engineering in meeting demand for skilled workers in such field.

"But this doesn't mean neglecting professions specifically for women," he added.

On the award, he said it was consistent with the government's policy to encourage more women in business. --Bernama

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Mahathir-women 4 (reopens item) Kuala Lumpur (embargo)

The award recipients were Puan Rosenah bte Mohamed (Syarikat Dew Ma Farmasi), Puan Noraini Soltan (Sipro Plastics Industries Sdn Bhd), Puan Rohana Abdul Rahman (Sweet Touch Ceramic) and Puan Mariam Tan Sri Sulaiman (The Body Shop, Ecoshop and Ecover). --Bernama  
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