

05 APR 1996

Mahathir-women

WOMEN A VALUABLE SOURCE OF MANPOWER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) -- Countries which sideline women in their development programmes are actually wasting a valuable source of manpower and management expertise, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said countries like Malaysia which had equal numbers of men and women could not ignore women because the men could not adequately operate the development machinery on their own.

"On the other hand, if women join men to participate in national development, we can achieve much more progress," he said when performing the ground-breaking ceremony and laying the foundation stone for the Women's Institute of Management (WIM) building in Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg here.

He said women had natural management skills moulded through their role as housewives.

This inherent ability and the savings habit among most women were particularly useful in business, he said.

Dr Mahathir said this fact was obvious in Malaysia where the number of successful women entrepreneurs is increasing by the day.

He said once the building was completed, WIM would be in a better position to organise training programmes and courses to upgrade the management skills of women.

The proposed four-storey building, expected to cost RM6 million, is located on a 0.5-hectare site.

Among other things, it will have an administration room, resource centre, hostel and business centre.

At the ceremony, Dr Mahathir was conferred the "Ahli Mulia WIM" award for his unique leadership, farsightedness, discipline and efforts in inculcating a good Malaysian community.

WIM also signed a memorandum of understanding with University of East London to jointly conduct a Masters in Business Administration course. -- Bernama

AH YBY