

12 OCT 1997

Hasmah-Poverty

GOVT TO INTENSIVE HELP FOR 56,000 POOR FAMILIES

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Efforts will be intensified to lift the 56,000 poor families in Malaysia from the clutches of poverty, chairman of the regional committee on Economic Advancement of Rural and Island Women for the Asia Pacific (RSC-AP) Meeting Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali said.

She said the Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) had succeeded in reducing the poverty level in Malaysia over the years.

Nevertheless, there were still 56,000 families who still required attention, she said in the "Mingguan Dunia" programme aired by Astro tonight.

Malaysia would table the success of its micro credit programme introduced by AIM at the meeting to enable other countries to implement it, said Dr Siti Hasmah, who is the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir will open the six-day meeting tomorrow attended by representatives from 14 countries.

Among them are the First Lady of Pakistan Begum Kulsoom, Zohrah Khatami Sadeghi (Iran), Usha Narayanan (India), Vo Thi Le (Vietnam), Erenjavyn Shurentsetseg (Mongolia) and Mairam Akaeva (Kyrgyzstan).

The objectives of the meeting, among others, were to enhance the awareness and commitment to promote the micro credit programme to redeem women in rural areas from the shackles of poverty, she added.

-- BERNAMA

HAK TS