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BE THANKFUL, MALAYSIAN WOMEN TOLD

KANGAR, Aug 21 (Bernama) -- Women in Malaysia should be thankful that they are now appreciated unlike during colonial times, the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, said today.

She said that during colonial times, women in rural areas were neglected in the health, educational and economic aspects.

The colonial masters only gave priority to women in the urban areas, she said at a meeting with leaders of women's groups organised by the Perlis Wives of Elected Representatives Welfare and Charity Organisation (Baidunita), here.

"Many women in the rural areas died in childbirth during colonial times. They were illiterate and were not encouraged to participated in economic activities," she said.

However, the lot of women in the country was now different and they were assisted in various activities said Dr Siti Hasmah, who is accompanying Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on a one-day visit to Perlis.

For example, she said, the Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia (AIM) had helped 46,000 rural women in economic activities.

-- BERNAMA  
RIS AD JK