

20 OCT 1998

QUEEN FABIOLA ARRIVES FOR ISC MEETING

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Queen Fabiola of Belgium arrived here today to attend the five-day International Steering Committee (ISC) meeting on rural women economic advancement which begins today.

The patron of the ISC was met on arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport by the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, who is also ISC president, and National Unity and Social Development Minister Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail.

Queen Fabiola was accompanied by an 11-member delegation.

The meeting, themed "Poverty Amongst Rural Women, Their Families and Communities" will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Thursday.

It will evaluate the group's progress in making advancements for women in rural areas internationally, as well as electing a new president for the 1998-2000 session.

The First Ladies from Senegal and Nigeria are expected to arrive tomorrow to join some 150 participants, including representatives from Morocco, Egypt, Tonga and Jordan.

The First Ladies are scheduled to have an audience with the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Najihah on Friday.

The ISC, established in 1992 in Geneva, has the wives of heads of government from 16 countries as members.

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