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LID-Ladies

WOMEN CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

LANGKAWI, July 24 (Bernama) -- Women can contribute significantly to economic recovery particularly in areas such as women's entrepreneurship, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali said today.

"We have a lot of women entrepreneurs with a crucial role to play in efforts to stimulate business activities," she told Bernama on arrival at the Langkawi International Airport here with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir will join eight heads of government, senior ministers and captains of industries for the fourth Langkawi International Dialogue (LID '99) where there would be a special discussion among first ladies.

Dr Siti Hasmah said other issues that would feature prominently among the ladies are health, youth and consumerism.

These crucial issues prompted the spouses of the leaders attending the dialogue to request for the session among themselves.

In previous dialogues, the first ladies attended the main dialogue deliberated by their husbands but not as participants, she said.

"But now, they feel there are certain issues they can be involved in especially given the economic crisis," the Prime Minister's wife said.

Earlier, at a press briefing, Datuk Dr Mihaela Smith, the chief executive of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management, said social issues should be integrated in the smart partnership approach in economic recovery.

Dr Mahathir, who has a busy schedule for the next four days, met Botswana President Festus G. Mogae for about an hour but no details were available on matters discussed.

-- BERNAMA

MR TS