

24 JUL 1999

LID-LADIES

WOMEN CAN CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO RECOVERY, SAYS SITI HASMAH

By: Mikhail Raj Abdullah

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

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

Dr Mahathir will join some 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 that other issues which would form the highlight of discussions among the ladies included health, youth and consumerism, all crucial which prompted spouses of leaders attending LID to request for this special dialogue among themselves.

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

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

At a press briefing earlier, 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, had a four-eyed bilateral meeting lasting an hour with Botswana President Festus G. Mogae, but no details were available on what was discussed.--BERNAMA

MR KTC