

# Discriminatory laws to be removed

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## Constitution changes will eliminate policies based on sex: PM

By **R. Manirajan**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon:** The Federal Constitution is to be amended to remove laws and policies deemed discriminatory by sex.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the amendments to Article 8(2), approved by the cabinet last week, will be tabled during the current parliament session.

Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution now reads:

“Except as expressly authorised by this constitution, there shall be no discrimination against citizens on the ground only of religion, race, descent or place of birth in any law or in the appointment to any office or employment under a public authority or in the administration of any law relating to the acquisition, holding or disposition of property or establishing or carrying on any trade, business, profession, vocation or employment.”

Speaking to reporters after launching a campaign by the Women and Family Development Ministry on “Women Against Violence” at KL Sentral here, Mahathir said the amendments will be made to cover the relevant laws, policies and appointments.

Asked if this meant other related laws would also be amended, he said: “If there is a

need to, the government will look into it, but at the moment, just the Federal Constitution.”

Earlier, when launching the campaign, Mahathir said the inculcation of virtues in the young will shape a responsible citizenry averse to crime and violence.

He said the task of raising and educating children in the home is increasingly neglected as women enjoyed greater career opportunities.

“Since work takes up much of their time, women will have to make the most of quality time to instil good values in their children.

“Once nurtured with virtues, it will be natural for children to reject vices.”

Mahathir said laws and enforcement alone cannot oversee society’s conduct if its members lacked awareness of the need for self-control.

“We can draft and enforce

laws. But no law or police force is effective enough to overcome violence by monitoring everyone’s movement all the time,” he said.

More than 500 representatives from various organisations attended the launch at the KL Sentral Station lobby in Brickfields.

Police statistics showed that 2,413 cases of domestic violence involving wives and 1,217 rape cases were reported last year.