

Equal rights for women with amendment

Bt 24 JUL 2001

THE Government proposes to amend Article 8(2) of the Federal Constitution to enable women to enjoy equal rights as men and ensure they are not discriminated against, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The amendment will be tabled during the current Parliament sitting, which will end next week.

"The equal rights would concern laws and policies, and others, except for physical matters in which there are certain reasons why we need to differentiate between men and women."

Asked if the amendments would also involve existing laws, Dr Mahathir said: "Well, if there is a need then we will look into it. But, at the moment, we think what is necessary is amending the Constitution."

The Prime Minister was speaking at a press conference after launching the Women Against Violence (Wave) campaign organised by the Women and Family Development Ministry at KL Sentral.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's wife Datin Seri Endon Mahmood, and Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd president Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Maidin.

In his speech earlier, Dr

Mahathir said parents should instill good values in their children so that they would grow up to be responsible citizens.

"Early education will ensure children will not get involved in crime and violence. This is very important as parents are very busy with their work and spend less time with their children."

Dr Mahathir said working women tend to neglect the task of educating and bringing up their children as their time is taken up at work.

"They have to spend some quality time with their children. With the inculcation of these virtues, it will be natural for children to reject unhealthy activities." —NST