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Marina-Arroyo

MARINA MAHATHIR MEETS PRESIDENT ARROYO

MANILA, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- Malaysian AIDS Council president Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir today called on President Gloria Arroyo and both exchanged views on the growing role of Asian women in a modern world.

In their 30-minute meeting at Malacanang Palace here, both women found out that they both enjoy caring for the poor and the sick in their respective countries.

The two women leaders also swapped views on various issues and efforts to advance the welfare of women in Asia as well as parallels in their lives, one being a president's daughter and the other, of a prime minister.

Marina is the eldest daughter of Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Arroyo, an American-educated economist, is the daughter of the late president Diosdado Macapagal.

Marina expressed interest in working with the Arroyo administration, particularly through her advocacy activities in her capacity as president of the Malaysian AIDS Council.

She also expressed concern over the plight of poor women in Malaysia, adding "women really suffer. Women are the ones mostly infected with AIDS."

She informed Arroyo that part of the agenda in the Asean Informal Summit to be hosted by Kuala Lumpur in November this year will be devoted to AIDS.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.

Both women noted as a happy development the fact that more Asian women were taking on greater responsibilities.

Arroyo pointed out that in her Cabinet, there are more women appointees than any other administration.

Marina said Malaysian women have also been appointed to important posts in the government.

-- BERNAMA

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