

22 FEB 2001

Mahathir-Women

WOMEN CAN MOTIVATE THEIR CHILDREN IN USE OF IT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today women, as mothers, can guide and motivate their children in the use of information technology (IT) to develop information and communication.

He said that through the use of IT, the women could also work from the home and at the same time look after and educate their children.

"We realise that IT is not only a trend but the biggest revolution that will have wide influence on communication, education, trade, cooperation and relations among governments, community trade, scientific development and so forth, throughout the world," he said when opening Wisma Women's Institute of Management (WIM), here.

He said women made up about half the population of Malaysia and 40 per cent of its workforce.

Women must cultivate an interest in and learn to use the various IT tools, he added.

"If Malaysians, especially the women, do not give attention to IT in the new millennium, they will be left behind by development not only in the country but also at the international level," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the national-level IT programme organised by WIM for the women, especially those in the rural areas, could give them wider exposure.

Through this programme, the women could provide a balance in terms of knowledge and skills and use the knowledge and skills acquired at the workplace and in the house, while teaching their children, in business and other areas, he said.

He said other organisations should continue with WIM's efforts to train and educate the women, and the women should be more open and prepared to seize the opportunities available.

"I always pay attention to the role of women to improve their living standard because I believe that when women progress, the quality of life of their families will also improve," he said.

At the function, Dr Mahathir also launched WIM's charity electronic-auction web site, <http://www.msn.com.my>, which sells items donated by VIPs. Among the items are a necktie belonging to Dr Mahathir and an autographed handbag belonging to Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali.

The prime minister also launched WIM's national-level ICT programme for women.

WIM chairman Datuk Napsiah Omar said the programme was open to all women to expose them to IT and its applications in a borderless world.

WIM is a non-governmental organisation which runs various development programmes for rural women, single mothers, orang asli women and women's shelters.

Present were Dr Siti Hasmah and Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Shahrizat Abdul Jalil.

-- BERNAMA

MS AHH JK