

# 'Women must adapt to new challenges'

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## Siti Hasmah: Stand up for your rights

By Shamini Darshni

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KAJANG, Tues. -- The demands of the new millennium should not force women to be more like men; instead, they should adapt to the challenges, said Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Giving a talk on *A Woman's Role* to the Finance Ministry's Puspanita branch, she said it was possible for women to adapt to new challenges.

Dr Siti Hasmah also called on women to be committed in the fight for their rights and dignity, but not to be caught up in women's issues with hidden agendas.

She said that a clear understanding of socio-cultural and religious matters would ensure women their basic rights.

"With that, the rights to freedom, building careers and playing active roles in society and nation development in a secure environment will also be ensured," she said.

Dr Siti Hasmah reminded Malaysian women not to lose perspective of the standing and opportunities they had enjoyed since Independence.

"We are far luckier than many

women in other parts of the globe. We have the society and the laws to protect us," she said.

She said women should contribute more in the fields of management, development and nation-

building.

"To build a modern society, women must have a steadfast spirit, a sharp mind and a strong body. These factors will make Malaysia the epitome of development."