

The future belongs to women: Dr M

SUN 26 AUG 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: Will women run the country in the near future? Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad seems to think so.

With women outnumbering men in public universities, Mahathir believes the future of the country would increasingly be decided by the fairer sex.

"Bit by bit, womenfolk are making progress. In many ministries, the secretaries are now women," he said after launching the Women's Day 2002 celebrations at Stadium Putra yesterday.

"Women have proven their determination to the extent that some have become fighter jet pilots. Don't the menfolk feel embarrassed? Do they want to go back home to cook

and allow their wives to come out and earn a living?"

Mahathir said he felt uneasy about the low number of male students in universities because it is important to strike a balance between the sexes in manpower.

"There must be a balance between men and women in the workforce. Maybe in certain fields there will be fewer men but in other areas they should outnumber the women."

Mahathir said about 70% of university students, especially the Malays, are female.

He said efforts to prod male students into studying hard and entering universities had not met with encouraging response.