

26 DEC 2002

Shahrizat-Indonesia

M'SIA-INDONESIA IMPLEMENT COOPERATION IN WOMEN DEVELOPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 26 (Bernama) -- Malaysia and Indonesia will cooperate to implement the memorandum of understanding (MoU) concerning cooperation in women affairs and family development signed in Bali on Aug 8.

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said today the cooperation included the exchange of women officers and leaders in programmes that benefited women in both countries.

She said this at a press conference at her office here after receiving a courtesy call from her Indonesian counterpart, Sri Redjeki Sumaryoto S.H and her delegation who are on a four-day visit to Malaysia.

The Indonesian minister was given a briefing and a multimedia presentation on the Ministry of Women and Family Development followed by a bilateral meeting.

"We discussed efforts at enhancing the position of women. We agreed to give priority to issues such as how to ensure more women are given positions at decision-making level or to ensure that they are given opportunities to play a more important role in the decision-making process in both countries.

They also discussed follow-up action on the MoU signed during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's official visit to Indonesia in August.

On the issue of violence against women and children, Shahrizat said Malaysia and Indonesia might embark on a joint educational campaign.

At the same press conference, Sri Redjeki said both countries should strive to give women a bigger role in resolving crises in their respective countries.

"We know that in the era of globalisation, conflicts and competition will lead to cracks not only between the communities but also nations," she said.

She said her visit to Malaysia was not only to follow up on the MoU which was signed but also to have a closer look at the progress achieved by Malaysian women.

During their stay in Malaysia, the delegation will visit the National Population and Family Development Board (LPPKN), the Accident and Emergency Department of Hospital Kuala Lumpur and Kompleks Kraf (Handicrafts Complex).

-- BERNAMA

FA MAM AO