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Gerakan-Kee

MALAYSIANS MUST UNITE AND REJECT HUDUD, SAYS WANITA GERAKAN

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- All Malaysians regardless of race, creed or religion must make the stand that they cannot support or accept Hudud laws in the country, Wanita Gerakan said today.

"The irrevocable stand is necessary because Hudud laws violate the basic principles of the Malaysian Constitution," Wanita Gerakan head Datuk Kee Phaik Cheen said.

She said while gender equality had been legally established in the country's Constitution, the new Hudud legislation passed by PAS in the Kelantan and Terengganu state assemblies blatantly discriminated against women.

"The Hudud and Qisas Enactments provide punishments that are not only inconsistent with federal law but also unacceptable in any modern, civilised and progressive society," she said in her speech at the Wanita Gerakan Annual Delegates Conference at the party headquarters here.

She said Wanita Gerakan fully supported the struggle to repeal all draconian and unjust laws regardless of whether they were passed under religious or secular guises.

"All laws that violate the principles of human rights and equality must be abolished. We therefore call on all who believe in basic human rights that we set aside our differences and be fully committed to defending the right of all Malaysians to equal treatment, equal access to opportunities and equal dignity for all, regardless of religion, race, class, nationality and gender," she said.

On another note, Kee said the challenge for leaders today was to find the most effective means to implement policies.

Citing the use of English in the teaching of Mathematics and Science in schools, she said instead of politicising the issue unnecessarily, "we should allow our educationists to work out the best system, whether it begins with mother-tongue or immersion method".

"Improvement in the teaching and learning of English should therefore be a non-issue today. Let us therefore focus instead on our quest to always have a competitive edge," she added.

Wanita Gerakan also paid a special tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his unequivocal stand on gender equality.

"He has already made a major contribution to the new millennium by pushing forward an agenda for the progress and development of women. Our rights have now been enshrined in the Constitution, and Malaysia now has a full Ministry for Women and Family Development," she said.

Kee said the country's international standing today had made Malaysians proud and this was due to Dr Mahathir's consistent stand on world issues which he advocated without fear or favour.

-- BERNAMA

SR AHH YBY