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Hasmah-women

ALL PARTIES MUST COOPERATE TO RESOLVE WORLD'S CONFLICTS, SAYS SITI HASMAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- All parties have to resolve conflicts in the world through the United Nations (UN) as well as seeking women's views, their concerns and experiences in all stages of mediation and negotiations of the peace process, said the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali today.

She said women's voices create a potential for different concepts of security, disarmaments and world order because women's morality was associated with an emphasis on love relationship dominated by ethics of care and how their decisions would affect the world community.

She said it is time to re-look at the peace process and the diplomacy in conflict resolution as for most instances, women became directly involved in warfare only after crucial political decisions have been made, after weapons have been distributed and the wars have started.

"Let me conclude that the war against terrorism is ill defined, the root causes are not addressed and the reasons for war are inconsistently applied.

"In the meantime, all of us are under siege of deep fear because we can all be vulnerable to suicide bombings and unilateral pre-emptive strikes with weapons of mass destruction," she said in her keynote address at the Malaysian Women's Convention in Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

The convention was organised by National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) in conjunction with the Malaysian for Peace campaign to collect one million signatures to oppose war against Iraq.

Siti Hasmah said it is time for women to influence the decision that create war, the conduct of war and in post conflict situations as their ways of thinking bring hopes and better opportunities for lasting peace.

"Women and children are the people most directly affected by the horrors of war, therefore, say no to war is really important," she said.

Meanwhile, seven resolutions have been approved during the convention, which would be handed over to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the Malaysian for Peace Assembly, to be held on Feb 23.

Among the resolutions are to promote education and capacity building for peace, conflict resolutions and gender sensitivity in schools, family and community through the mass media and social institutions to enable people gain the values, attitudes and behavioural patterns of a culture peace, respect of diversity and removal of hatred and revenge.

Also presents at the convention was NCWO President Prof Datuk Sharifah Habsah Shahabudin.

-- BERNAMA

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