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English

GERAKAN WANTS PARLIAMENTARIANS TO MASTER ENGLISH

KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- Wanita Gerakan has recommended that a directive be issued to all parliamentarians and state assemblymen to master the English language.

While welcoming Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's directive to all government departments and agencies to conduct English courses for their staff, Wanita Gerakan chief Datuk Rhina Bhar said that by mastering English, politicians would show leadership by example.

"And secondly, no less important, they can read materials either in books or on the Internet to give them ideas on how to govern better," she said in a statement here today.

Rhina Bhar also said that it would be beneficial to make the proceedings in parliament and state assemblies bilingual with the introduction in English.

"This is no way to belittle Bahasa Malaysia which is well respected as the National Language but it will push the politicians to master the English language to follow proceedings which may be conducted in English," she said.

In the statement, Wanita Gerakan also called for proceedings in court be allowed to be conducted in English to encourage young lawyers to master the language to cite authorities which are mainly in English.

"The young lawyers who are poor in English are unable to give their best to their clients and their poor command of English does not allow them to cite authorities which are in English," she said.

-- BERNAMA

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