

**Women A Smart Partner In Transformation, Says PM**  
**Bernama**  
**August 25, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today that women are the catalyst to unity and a smart partner to the government in transforming the nation.

The Prime Minister said that women were a role model and should not be sidelined in the transformation process.

"Women must be given ample space and opportunity in economics and politics because we cannot exclude them if we want the nation to advance. The chance must be given for their potential to be realised as human capital," he said at the national Women's Day celebrations at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Also present were the Prime Minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil and Minister of Youth and Sports Datuk Ahmad Shabery Cheek.

Najib said that denying women opportunities to move ahead meant depriving the nation of 50 per cent of its growth potential.

About 5,000 women were at the gathering, including members of non-governmental organisations and representatives of public and private agencies.

He referred to the aim of having 30 per cent women decision-makers in the corporate sector, and said that it was not a quota but a target that was reachable because "women have merit and ability."

Najib said the government was striving to increase the proportion of women in the workforce from the present 46.1 per cent to 55 per cent in 2015.

He was sure that the effort being carried out in stages would achieve the desired result.

The Prime Minister presented cheques amounting to RM9.75 million as financial assistance to 115 non-governmental organisations in the crime prevention programme SEKATA, which stresses collective responsibility for family safety.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsgeneral.php?id=610337>