

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : SEMINAR "THE ENLIGHTENED WOMAN"
Lokasi : AUDITORIUM LPPKN, JALAN RAJA LAUT, KUALA LUMPUR
Tarikh : 30-10-1989

Assalamu alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. Siti Zaharah, Timbalan Menteri Di Jabatan Perdana Menteri; Dif-Dif Kehormat; Puan-puan dan tuan-tuan sekalian.

Bersyukur kita ke hadrat Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala kerana dengan limpah kurnia dan izinNya dapat kita bersama- sama di Seminar ini. Saya juga mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih kepada pihak penganjur Seminar, iaitu Urusetia Hal Ehwal Wanita (HAWA) dan Jawatankuasa Penasihat Kebangsaan bagi projek Global Cooperation For A Better World yang telah menganjurkan dan menaja Seminar pada pagi ini.

2. Kita berkumpul dengan satu tujuan murni iaitu untuk menganalisa kedudukan wanita dalam pembangunan negara khususnya, pembangunan dunia amnya dan juga mengenai peranan wanita yang sentiasa berubah. Hanya satu sahaja peranan wanita yang tidak berubah hinggalah ke hari ini iaitu peranan-peranan yang perlu dimainkan sebagai anak perempuan, sebagai isteri dan sebagai ibu. Justeru itu, peranan inilah yang telah dapat membentuk berjuta-juta manusia yang ada di muka bumi pada hari ini.

3. Walaupun hanya di dalam lingkaran hidup begitu sahaja yang diperkenankan dan diperkenalkan kepada wanita-wanita pada zaman-zaman yang lampau, sifat-sifat positif terhadap perkembangan wanita di dalam dunia ini telahpun direstui oleh berbagai-bagai agama dan bangsa.

Puan-puan dan tuan-tuan,

4. Dengan ini, saya ingin memberi sepatah dua kata di dalam Bahasa Inggeris kepada para hadirin sekalian.

Distinguished guest; Ladies and Gentlemen.

5. The roles of women have undergone dramatic changes in the past few decades. Many of those changes have been sudden and have demanded that transformation be brought about upon the individual within a short space of time. Some of the adjustments have been more difficult to effect than others. Mental and emotional strain, feelings of inadequacy or guilt are some of the prices we have paid for progress.

6. It is important that a clear vision of the future is within the grasp of all of us. "The Enlightened Woman" is a seminar which will examine changes and pressures experienced on a day-to-day basis and propose methods and solutions for dealing with them.

7. The Seminar will focus on women in a changing society and provide an opportunity for participants to examine the effects of change in their personal and work lives, to discover new methods of initiating and sustaining positive change.

8. Women of today play a far more important role in the home, work place, community, and the nation. Women have always been known to be 'the power behind the throne' or behind every successful man is a woman. But today, the word "behind" changes to be "beside" as the modern theme for development is partnership. A woman's every action becomes an example for the foundation of our children, family and others to follow. Women are therefore directly responsible in monitoring the lives of future generations starting from the home; the community; the nation and the world. As the demands and challenges increase the need for a greater understanding of one's self and the awareness of the capabilities and potentials within every woman, becomes an absolute necessity, so as to enable them to deal and handle any situation in the best way they can.

9. An "Enlightened Woman" is one who is well equipped in every aspect mentally and spiritually so that she is a resource to others, to give support and help and alleviate any problem and situation she encounters in her day to day life.

10. Though women, are now put in positions once held by men, women need not become aggressive, masculine and competitive. Feminine qualities by nature are gentle firm and strengthening. The loving compassionate nature always helps to bring everyone together in harmony and unity. Focussing our attention on these qualities becomes complimentary to masculine qualities. Both men and women can work with unity and harmony.

11. Global cooperation for a better world is a project which enables each one of us to stop and think, assess our own self worth and apply these qualities in our lives so that there is a positive change for a better beginning with one's self, home, environment, nation and this world. This project with its worthy objectives is both timely and appropriate. We live in a world of turmoil and suffering as a result of wars and threats of war, abject poverty, starvation, grave malnutrition, a high incidence of disease and drug abuse in both developed and developing countries. The present world order and its socio-economic system based on intense competition, antagonism and opposition, creates disunity and generate an atmosphere of tension, widening the areas of conflict, poverty, hunger, disease and drug abuse.

12. It is fortunate for us, that there is a clearly visible sign of hope for mankind, in that there is a growing awareness among people of all countries, that mankind is one, and that a way must be found for mutual cooperation to us her in a better world. We should strive for a society in which there is love, unity, peace, integrity, freedom, prosperity and dignity of the individual, and all segments of society.

Puan-puan dan tuan-tuan,

13. Kita harus bersyukur dengan pencapaian wanita di negara kita hari ini. Walau bagaimanapun kita boleh memperbaiki lagi kedudukan wanita dari semasa ke semasa. Usaha menganjurkan Seminar ini adalah satu lagi usaha ke arah tersebut. Dengan itu saya berharap Seminar ini akan memberi manfaat kepada kesejahteraan wanita amnya.

14. Sekali lagi saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada pihak penganjur kerana memberi penghormatan kepada saya untuk berucap di Majlis ini. Dengan ini saya dengan sukacitanya membuka Seminar "The Enlightened Woman" dengan rasminya.