

Tajuk : How They Too Have Progressed.

How they too have progressed

Women make up more than 50% of state's workforce this year from 49.5% last year



By ZORA CHAN

zora@thestar.com.my

KUCHING: More than half of Sarawak's workforce today comprises women.

This is one of the fruits of independence the people, particularly women, enjoyed after 50 years, said Welfare, Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Fatimah Abdullah.

She said during the early days, such as those during her mother's era, the majority of the women were uneducated due to lack of schools and opportunities.

"But after achieving independence in Malaysia and the democratisation of education, every one has the opportunity to go to school and further their tertiary education.

"With more women getting educated, we have more of them in the workforce. Last year, Sarawak's women workers made up 49.5% of the workforce. This year, it is more than 50%.

"We also have more women pursuing their tertiary education today. At Universiti Malaysia Sarawak's 2013/2014 intake, 68% of the students are women," she told reporters after officiating at the opening of Rafflesia Spa here yesterday.

Earlier, in her speech, Fatimah said it was amazing to see how much women in Sarawak had progressed in 50 years.

She said they had proved their worth in various fields that were once dominated by men.

"Some of us work in the govern-

ment and private sectors while some choose to be our own bosses," she said.

She said women excelled in their respective careers because they were passionate, persistent and persevered in whatever they did.

"Family support is also important to their success stories," she said, adding that women were also strong when facing many challenges.

Fatimah congratulated Rafflesia Spa, operated by a budding woman entrepreneur Shirley Hasmani Eddie, for opening an outlet here and offering city dwellers and visitors a relaxing Balinese spa experience.

Shirley said Rafflesia Spa is a subsidiary of Rafflesia Wellness Sdn Bhd, which was established in 2010.

"Under Rafflesia Wellness Sdn Bhd, we have opened two spas - Rafflesia The Balinese Spirit and an outlet selling spa products and accessories under the name Rafflesia Spa Essentials in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah," she said.

"Our tagline is 'Now you don't have to be in Bali to experience Balinese spa treatment'. Our services are very well-received by locals and visitors in Sabah," she said.

She said Rafflesia Spa provided comfort to those who needed pampering and rejuvenation after a hectic day at work.

For more information, call 082-417 881 or visit the spa at Section 5, KTLD, First floor, Lot 421, Jalan Kulas.

Balinese experience: Fatimah opening Rafflesia Spa as Shirley and Malaysian Association of Wellness and Spa board member Eddie Abdullah look on.