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## ICT LESSONS FOR SINGLE MOTHERS AND ORPHANS

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) continued to contribute its expertise in developing the community's socio-economic and making it relevant to the people as reflected in a recent ICT workshop held for 311 single mothers and orphans in the state.

The participants were introduced on the basics on ICT as well as social websites.

It was organised by the Faculty of Computer Systems & Software Engineering (FSKSP), UMP Women Association (Matahari) with the cooperation of Yayasan Salam Malaysia and Pahang MSC.

The participants were from Bentong, Bera, Cameron Highlands, Jerantut, Kuantan, Lipis, Maran, Mentakab, Pekan, Raub, Rompin and Temerloh.

According to Human Resource Deputy Minister, Senator Dato' Maznah Mazlan, the need to know about technology was essential.

"It can be the impetus to improve the economy while knowledge gained can be used to enhance one's skills and help to change lives and way of thinking for the better.

"The programme is timely and in line with the Government's wish in helping single mothers and orphans in learning how to use social websites to access information as well as to differentiate the pros and cons of information technology.

"They will learn how to use information

technology wisely and not to abuse it for ill things," she said when officially closing the workshop at Dewan Astaka, UMP Gambang campus here on October 29, 2011.

She also reminded the single mothers to monitor their children's activities when they were surfing the social websites and to exercise some form of restriction so they would not get involved in negative things and unproductive websites.

"Issues such as online hacking and frauds are rampant. The participants need to be given the right information and current picture about what information technology is all about so they and their children will be better informed," she added.

Dato' Maznah said single mothers in Malaysia should grab the opportunities as there were a variety of programmes carried out by the Government to help improve their livelihoods.

She added that the Government paid equal attention to them and hoped a detailed study on a better development plan for single mothers could be conducted.

Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Student



Affairs & Alumni), Professor Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin said UMP, described as a communal campus, also bore the responsibility of helping the Government in fostering closer ties with the people from all walks of life.

He added that the university had identified socio-economic development as one of its key result areas (UKRA) that served as the main pillars of UMP Strategic Plan 2011- 2015.

He also said continued support from the Government and corporate bodies ensured the initiatives were kept going.

One of the participants was Noraida Mohd Sulong, 43, from Kuantan who was the breadwinner for her six children.

She said the workshop helped her to better connect online with customers and business friends.