

The men who live it up with Govt aid...

IT'S THE WRONG WAY TO DO BUSINESS, SAYS MAHATHIR

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IPOH, Fri. — Dato Seri/Dr. Mahathir Mohamad criticised today bumiputra businessmen who use Government aid to pursue a "high society" life.

"Their concept of successful business is sleeping in posh hotels, owning big cars and going around with brief cases. This is totally out of gear," he added.

"Success in business is measured by one's business skills and the wise use of thrift," he said when opening the northern zone Shamelin Co-operative annual meeting and a campaign to recruit more members at the Tanjung Rambutan community hall, nine miles north of here.

The Deputy Prime Minister called on the Malays to give their full support to co-operatives in their community to enable them to succeed in business.

"This can be done by either becoming active members of the co-operatives or by becoming their regular customers," he said.

Criticism

According to him many co-operatives failed because their organisers were either irresponsible and lacked total commitment to their task or because they felt they could not continue after severe criticisms from ordinary members.

"In this respect, ordinary members who own only a \$1 share should not speak with a \$10,000 voice because in so doing they dampen the spirits of the management who are struggling to keep the co-operatives alive," he said amid laughter.

Dato Seri Dr. Maha-

thir said a credibility gap arose when shareholders began to question the capability of the co-operatives business operations.

"Both sides would lose in the end. The co-operatives' management would suffer a persecution complex and the shareholders would keep their distance," he added.

Sacrifice

He praised the Shamelin co-operative which through the sacrifices and dedication of its leaders had become the most successful co-operative in the country.

He said one of its members had made a great sacrifice leaving a lucrative post in a big business concern to work for the co-operative which could not afford to pay him well.

The co-operative's chairman, Tan Sri Ainnuddin Wahid, said it was a wrong thing to say that the Malays had no talent for business as they were world-renowned businessmen during the Malacca Sultanate.

He pointed out that the Malays operated the tin mines during the Dutch period and when the English came, they continued to control the country's business activities.

He said the situation took a turn for the worse when the English restructured Malaysian society, making the Malays lose their hold in the commercial world.

The general secretary of the co-operative, Encik Sanusi Junid, said the co-operative had about 22,000 members, mostly farmers and fishermen. More members from among teachers and Government officers were sought, he added.