

Love your country and show it: PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Love your country and show it by working hard with discipline and dedication, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told Malaysians today.

"We must not only be willing to die for the country but also be willing to fulfil the real

meaning of independence by working hard," he said when opening the annual general meeting of the National Youth Co-operative (Kobena) today.

With all the rich resources at its disposal and other supplementary factors, there was no reason why Malaysia could not be a progressive nation in all fields.

Datuk Seri Dr

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Mahathir said the youth formed an important source of manpower for the country and the co-operative movement aims to bring justice and prosperity to the people through co-operation and independence.

He said co-operatives had an important role to play in getting the people involved in the mainstream of development.

However, their social objectives should not be used as an excuse for financial failure and mis-

management.

Guidelines

He said the assumption that the performance of co-operatives was influenced and affected by their social objective of helping the people "is a total myth, unless they could prove that they had actually been run efficiently and effectively.

"Co-operatives must be managed to ensure a high performance, profit-wise, and this can be done without hiding behind the excuse of their social aspects."

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also gave three guidelines for the successful management of co-operatives.

First, they must be willing to compete in the world of modern business.

Second, they must clearly denote the role, responsibilities and duties of the board of directors and the management, so that performance would not be adversely affected.

He also stressed the need for co-operatives to

have professionals manage their daily affairs, saying professionalism in management was inevitable if the organisations were to succeed.

Third, co-operatives must have a clear dividing line between their policies and their management activities so that they would not fall due to "personal or political factors."

The Prime Minister who expressed satisfaction at the achievements and activities of Kobena assured the youth co-operative that the Government would consider their wishes to participate in bigger projects, through integrated training programmes.

Kobena would also be given the opportunity to take part in Government turnkey projects, he said.