

MAHATHIR-COOPERATIVE
BM

84 (P)
BANGI, APRIL 8 (BERNAMA) - (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD WANTS THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT'S SMOOTH ADMINISTRATION MAINTAINED AND DOES NOT WANT TO HEAR OF ANY MALPRACTICES BY THOSE MANAGING THE COOPERATIVES.

THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVED THAT ONLY BY CLOSE MONITORING AND HONEST SUPERVISION COULD COOPERATIVES BE EFFECTIVE IN ACHIEVING ONE OBJECTIVE OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY - ERADICATION OF POVERTY.

+THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRUST IN A COOPERATIVE. IF THE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS OR STAFF ARE NOT TRUSTWORTHY, THEN THE COOPERATIVE WOULD FAIL.

+WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT MANY AMONG US ARE HONEST, WE CANNOT ENCOURAGE DISHONESTY,+ HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE AT UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN HERE TODAY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE COOPERATIVE SHOULD BE HONEST WHEN THEY CHECK THE WORK OF THE OTHERS IN THE COOPERATIVE. -- MORE 1420/MB
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HE SAID THAT PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT, SHOULD BE EMPLOYED TO CARRY OUT ITS DAY-TO-DAY RUNNING WHILE THE COMMITTEE AND OTHER MEMBERS SHOULD TAKE AN INTEREST IN ITS MANAGEMENT.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT SINCE THE LAUNCHING OF THE +NEW ERA FOR COOPERATIVES+ ON JAN. 28, 1982, THERE HAS BEEN VISIBLE CHANGES IN THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT.

THE CHANGES HAD REVIVED THE SPIRIT OF UNITY AMONG COOPERATIVE MEMBERS IN THE COUNTRY AND COOPERATIVES WERE BEING MANAGED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT, HE SAID.

+IF WE HAVE HEARD OF THE NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT LIKE MALPRACTICES BY CERTAIN PEOPLE ENTRUSTED WITH MANAGING THE COOPERATIVE, COOPERATIVES NOT MANAGED ACCORDING TO REGULATIONS; EMBEZZLEMENT AND MANY MORE, TODAY WE SEE CHANGES,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DA MAHATHIR WAS ALSO HAPPY TO NOTE THAT ACCUSATIONS ABOUT THE MALPRACTICES OF COOPERATIVES HAD TONED DOWN AND THE +EVILS+ OF COOPERATIVES NOT HOLDING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS FOR YEARS AND IMPROPER ACCOUNTING HAD BECOME A THING OF THE PAST.
-- MORE 1618/MB

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EXCUSES THAT WERE BELIEVABLE IN THE PAST AND LIABILITIES WERE NO LONGER APPLICABLE, HE SAID.

HE WAS CONVINCED THAT WITH THESE CHANGES, THOSE WHO TRIED TO BLAME OUTSIDE FORCES WORKING AGAINST COOPERATIVES, WOULD FEEL OUT OF PLACE BECAUSE MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVES WERE NOW AWARE ON HOW A COOPERATIVE SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED.

COOPERATIVE MEMBERS TODAY DISCUSSED ACTIVITIES THAT THE COOPERATIVE WAS ABLE TO UNDERTAKE WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ECONOMIC SERVICE FACILITIES, HE ADDED.

THEY NO LONGER FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON THE MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDS AND PROPERTY AND OTHER MALPRACTICES DUE TO IRRESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATORS.

THE COOPERATIVE LAUNCHED TODAY WAS SETUP IN DECEMBER AND WAS AIMED AT UNIFYING ALL COOPERATIVES IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF CARRYING OUT VARIOUS BUSINESS VENTURES.

MORE, 1625/MB

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IT WOULD ACT AS AN ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION BY PROVIDING BUILDING MATERIALS AND MACHINERY, CONSUMER GOODS, IMPORTATION OF OTHER ITEMS, AND THE EXPORT OF GOODS PRODUCED BY LOCAL COOPERATIVES.

IT NOW HAD 890,000 MEMBERS FROM 174 COOPERATIVES OR 30 PER CENT OF COOPERATIVE MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

THE PRIME MINISTER GOVERNMENT SHOULD HELP THIS MOVEMENT MORE MEANINGFULLY WHEN THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT SHOWED THEIR CONFIDENCE TOWARDS THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE.

THROUGH THE INDUSTRY OF MEMBERS OF COOPERATIVES AND WITH SHREWD LEADERSHIP, I AM SURE THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN MALAYSIA WILL BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC SECTOR AND PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY, HE SAID. -- 1633/MB