

MAHATHIR-BERSATU

BM

84 ②
PETALING JAYA, AUG. 24 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AND POLITICS SHOULD NOT MIX SO AS NOT TO GIVE RISE TO CONFUSION THAT COULD ERODE THE CONFIDENCE OF SHAREHOLDERS IN THE COOPERATIVES.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT ANY BUSINESS DEALING MUST BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM POLITICS EVEN IF A COOPERATIVE WAS OWNED BY A POLITICAL PARTY AND THE MEMBERS WERE FROM THE SAME PARTY.

+IF WE WEAR TWO HATS, THAT IS, BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A COOPERATIVE AND AT THE SAME TIME A POLITICIAN, WE SOMETIMES BECOME CONFUSED AND FORGET OUR ACTUAL ROLES, + HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE ANNUAL DELEGATES MEETING OF KOOP BERSATU, AN UMNO COOPERATIVE* AT HOTEL SUBANG VIEW IN SUBANG JAYA NEAR HERE.

+IN THE CONFUSION, MANY THINGS CAN HAPPEN, OPPORTUNITIES OR POSITION IN THE COOPERATIVE CAN BE USED FOR POLITICS AND IN THE PROCESS, THE ACTUAL MANAGEMENT OF THE COOPERATIVE WILL BE FORGOTTEN, + HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, FEARED THAT IF THIS WERE HAPPEN, MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MIGHT USE THE COOPERATIVE TO SECURE POSITIONS IN THE PARTY AND ALSO TO SEEK OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-GAIN.

+ALL COOPERATIVE DEALINGS MUST BE ABOVEBOARD, + HE STRESSED. HE SAID THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY SECRET DEALING SO AS TO PREVENT SUSPICION AMONG THE MEMBERS.

+IF THIS HAPPENED, THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COOPERATIVE MAY FAIL AND THIS WILL AFFECT THE INVESTMENTS MADE BY THE SHAREHOLDERS, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED COOPERATIVES OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EFFICIENT AND TRUSTWORTHY MANAGEMENT AT ALL LEVELS.

HE SAID THAT THOSE WISHING TO BECOME PART OF THE MANAGEMENT OF COOPERATIVES SHOULD ASK THEMSELVES WHAT CONTRIBUTION THEY COULD MAKE FOR THE MEMBERS IN THE LONG TERM AND NOT TRY TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEMSELVES.

+THIS MORAL I ALSO APPLY TO MYSELF. IF ONE WANTS TO SERVE IN THE LONG TERM, ONE SHOULD NOT THINK OF REAPING PROFITS IN THE SHORT TERM, + HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THE NUMBER OF INVESTORS IN KOOP BERSATU, THE OPERATION OF WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS +LAME+ POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE MANAGEMENT. -- MORE

HE SAID THAT THE CAPITAL COLLECTED BY KOOP BERSATU HAS ONLY \$12 MILLION, COMPARED WITH THE MCA-OWNED MULTI-PURPOSE HOLDINGS' \$300 BILLION AND THE MIC-OWNED MAIKA HOLDINGS' \$100 MILLION.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR URGED MORE UMNO MEMBERS AND MALAYS TO INVEST IN KOOP BERSATU AND SAID THEY SHOULD NOT BE SATISFIED WITH MERELY HAVING ASSETS OWNED THROUGH SYARIKAT IDRIS HYDRAULIC AND BUNGSAR HILL DEVELOPMENT.

EARLIER, KOOP BERSATU CHAIRMAN DATUK HARUN IDRIS SAID THAT AS AT JUNE 30, THE COOPERATIVE HAD RECORDED A PROFIT OF \$8.6 MILLION AND ITS ASSETS HAD INCREASED TO \$250 MILLION.

HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT KOOP BERSATU'S PROFITS WOULD INCREASE WITH MORE MEMBERS. -- BERNAMA