

# Mahathir:

## KUB

### assets

OF 2 5 1991 1031

### sold to

### pay debts

By SHARIFF HAMID

KOPERASI Usaha Bersatu Malaysia (KUB) has sold most of its assets to enable the cooperative to pay its debts and finance future operations, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said the Umno Supreme Council meeting on Saturday discussed the matter, and other developments in KUB. "We have agreed that measures should be taken quickly towards improving the cooperative," he told newsmen after chairing the Saturday meeting.

It is understood that as at the end of last year, KUB was not only facing cash flow problems, but also recorded accumulated losses of about \$120 million.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said urgent measures need to be taken to ensure that the cooperative will not only manage to recover, but also be viably operated, and be able to make a turnaround as soon as possible.

"We found out that its financial position is not healthy," he said. "By the way, Umno officially has no connection with the KUB and I am only its member," added the Umno president.

Meanwhile, KUB chairman Hassan Harun told Business Times that the cooperative has developed a professional working team to tackle all its problems, especially those related to its debts.

He assured KUB members that the cooperative is now in good hands and will have professionals to manage its various activities.

"There will also be a few new board members to help maintain the cooperative. They, too, will include professionals who can give us a hand to put KUB in a better position," he said.

He added, however, that KUB's debts are still substantial, totalling nearly \$120 million, but this can be resolved soon.

"We have definite plans for a brighter future for KUB. These include a well-organised operation and activities that will be introduced," Encik Hassan said.

He added that there is a plan to pump money into the cooperative to make it financially strong, but this will only be carried out at a later stage.