

KUB can make it good in business: Mahathir

By SHARIF HARON

KOPERASI Usaha Be~~ta~~ **Ma-**laysia (KUB) needs to adopt professionalism in its management similar to that in successful companies but something which has been lacking in many a cooperative, Prime Minister **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said.

• He said KUB has the potential to make it good in business given the prevailing encouraging economic climate.

Launching a KUB membership campaign in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the Prime Minister said under the National Development Plan, KUB, like other **Bu-**miputera concerns, will be provided with the opportunities to carry out business and trading activities.

But, he added, KUB and its management must work hard to taste success. It cannot expect government assistance all the time.

"The Government can only offer small assistance. The rest requires hard work," the Prime Minister said. "I hope KUB will succeed. It has the potential to do so," he said.

He added that many cooperatives have failed, not because of the system, but because not enough effort has been put in:

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, a KUB member himself, also said that the cooperative needs to be always open to cooperation with other parties in business as long as the ventures are profitable.

He stressed that KUB itself does not belong to Umno although the majority of its members are Umno members. He expressed hopes that there will be less politicking in the cooperative.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir later witnessed the signing ceremonies between KUB and its Australian and Norwegian partners in an oil and gas joint venture, and between KUB and Swansea Institute of Higher Education relating to technology transfer.

Earlier, KUB chairman **Has-**san **Harun** said the membership drive is aimed at increasing the number of KUB members to 250,000 and its share capital to \$250 million by 1995. At present, KUB members number 112,000 with average contributions of \$116 each.

Also present at the membership drive launch were Finance Minister **Datuk** Seri **Anwar** **Ibra-**him, Land and Cooperative Development Minister **Tan** Sri **Sa-**karan **Dandai** and Selangor Menteri Besar **Tan** Sri **Muham-**mad **Taib** **Muhammad**.