

# KUB members must stop politicking, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Koperasi Usaha Bersatu members have been urged to stop politicking and throw their support behind the management to ensure the co-operative's success.

In making the call, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said KUB was emerging from its financial doldrums and needed positive inputs from its members to ensure the success of its various projects.

"The time has come for KUB to be more organised, professional and not be overly dependent on the Government.

"Its management and members should strive to have a business-like approach to ensure the success of its projects and bring

benefit to the members," he said at the launching of a drive to boost the co-operative's membership.

Also present were Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Land and Co-operative Development Minister Tan Sri Sakaran Dandai and KUB chairman Encik Hassan Harun.

Dr Mahathir said members of co-operatives should not view their membership as a ticket to obtain loans or to make huge profits, adding that the co-operative movement was based on a system of obtaining benefits to its members and getting moderate profits.

He said some co-operatives in Sweden and Switzerland have become very successful in the retail

trade, enabling their members to obtain cheap goods and reasonable dividends.

"The laws governing co-operatives are meant to protect the interest of the members. Some co-operatives failed because they venture into businesses of which they know little about.

"It is of paramount importance that detailed studies are done on the viability of the projects before co-operatives venture into them."

Encik Hassan said the KUB group had an accumulated debt of \$95 million, liabilities amounting to \$120 million and assets of \$80 million.

He said the co-operative had embarked on several projects to improve its financial standing.