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NO PLANS TO BAR POLITICIANS FROM CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

Mahathir - Politic

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government has no plans to bar politicians from participating in the co-operative movement.

However, he reminded them not to make use of the movement as a channel to champion their political interest.

+We can only give advice as we do not have the law (to bar politicians from participating in co-operatives),+ he said after opening the 12th Annual General Meeting of Koperasi Usaha Bersatu (KUB) at the Islamic Centre here today.

Dr Mahathir said it was upto the members of each co-operative to assess the situation, adding that business should not be mixed with politics.

He said it was not an offence for a politician to involve actively in co-operative so long as he did not make use of the movement to champion his political interest or to bring down his political rivals.--more

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On the other end, the co-operative would benefit if its politician member work hard to bring economic success to the movement.

+A co-operative can progress or fail because of political influences,+ he said.

On the co-operative movement's involvement in business, Dr Mahathir said co-operative societies engaging in business should also change their administration from the co-operative culture to corporate culture.

He said the failure of some co-operatives in business was due to lack of management capability and mismanagement.--more

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Earlier, KUB Chairman Encik Hassan Harun said the co-operative planned to enter the car business by exporting Proton Saga cars to countries like China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Canada dan South Africa.

He said KUB would discuss with its potential partners overseas once it received the +green light+ from its Board of Directors.

Hassan said KUB's partners in the project were major companies and most of them were government and public companies.

He said KUB had also identified several businesses for participation and they included property, construction, estate, information technology, oil, gas, tourism, education and training.--Bernama