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Mahathir-PUNB

MAHATHIR SAYS PUNB NOT A WELFARE INSTITUTION

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MELAKA, April 16⁹⁸ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Berhad (PUNB) is not a welfare institution that gives financial assistance to entrepreneurs wanting to start business.

PUNB was set up as a body with expertise to study a Particular project and invest in it and not to give financial assistance to the project proposer, the prime minister said.

"We already have many institutions providing loans as capital for project. proposers and PUNB does not have to play that role," he told reporters at the end of his two-day visit to Melaka.

He was commenting on press reports today on the resignations of PUNB chief executive Raja Datuk Aman Ahmad and two of its general managers, Ishak Hashim and Nik Amin Nik Abdul Majid.

He said the project proposer should not hope that with his idea he could borrow from PUNB to participate in the project.

Instead, PUNB would only consider the project and invest in it after taking its viability into account, he said. -- more

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Mahathir-PUNB 2 (last) Melaka

He said all parties, especially those keen to cooperate with PUNB, must understand the purpose of the establishment of the corporation.

Dr Mahathir, who said he knew about the resignations earlier, added that what was important was that the candidates filling these important posts should understand the aims of the setting up of PUNB which did not function as a loan agency.

He said he believed that PUNB had accepted the resignations of the three officers after studying their performance. "Maybe PUNB made the wrong selection the last time. There is no harm in going one step backward to advance two steps," he said.

He reminded PUNB not to repeat its mistake in the selection of candidates to fill the vacated posts.

Asked whether the PUNB board of directors had to submit the name of the new candidate for chief executive for his approval, Dr Mahathir said, "It is up to them. I only give my views. I myself am not an expert in selecting because there are times when people I select are not suitable."

-- Bernama

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