

01 NOV 1997

ANSARA WANTS TO CREATE PROFESIONAL MALAY CLASS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Beginning with a programme to strengthen the country's education, Ansara, under its President Mukhriz Mahathir, has expanded its wings towards creating professional middle class Malay entrepreneurs.

This new objective of Ansara, an association for old students of Mara Junior Science College, evolves from the idea to merge the association's members who are entrepreneurs with other professionals who were previously isolated.

Speaking to reporters after the official opening of a seminar "The Creation of A Sustainable Middle Class Malay," here today, Mukhriz said initially, the association would focus on strengthening networking among ex-students.

"We discover that Ansara members were separated into two groupings, professionals who work under the management of another person, and entrepreneurs.

"We hope the networking will benefit all members to create a new class of professionals among them," Mukhriz added.

In view of this, Ansara will go for closer ties with the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development to gain more exposure on opportunities available.

Since its inception four years ago, Ansara had actively contributed ideas to the MRSM educational system.

The association also produces a career guidance videos for free distribution to all 23 MRSM in the country and to more than 400 schools.

Mukhriz said in future, Ansara's membership would be enhanced to the 23 colleges compared to only nine participating colleges to-date.

"If all former students grouped together, we will have at least 34,000 members," he said.

Asked whether Ansara intends to merge with Malay College Old Boys Association (McoBa) which has been long established, in order to enhance and strengthen the programme to create professional Malay entrepreneurs, Mukhriz said such a step may be taken in future.

"At the moment let us strengthen the association's position first," he said.

The minister of entrepreneur development Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, who officiated the launching of the seminar, meanwhile gave an assurance that the ministry will continue to assist Ansara as efforts put up by the association would benefit MRSM students, which are under the ministry. --

BERNAMA

ZMY FR