

18 MAR 1997

Muhammad-Entrepreneur

INSTITUTE IN MEMORY YAHAYA TO BE REALITY IN JUNE

SHAH ALAM, March 18 (Bernama) -- The proposed Institut Keusahawanan Tan Sri Yahaya (IKUTAN) will become a reality in June this year, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Haji Muhd Taib said today.

He said Selangor government decided to set up an entrepreneur institute not only in memory of Yahaya who died in a helicopter crash early this month but also to motivate other Malay entrepreneurs to follow his footsteps to uplift the economy of the Malays.

"Yahaya was an extraordinary figure in entrepreneurship, nationally and internationally," he told a news conference here after chairing a meeting on the formation of IKUTAN, here.

Present were Economic Adviser to the Government Tun Daim Zainuddin, Encorp Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Effendi Norwawi and Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM) Rector Datuk Haji Ahmad Zaidee Laidin.

Muhammad said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will be the patron of IKUTAN while Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Tun Daim as advisers.

The meeting also set up four task forces, each headed by Norwawi, Ahmad Zaidee, Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) and Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia to draw up plans on the formation of the institute including its location and functions.

"We have many suggestions and ideas. We also receive an offer on the site for IKUTAN," he said.

Muhammad said the task forces would submit their suggestions in three weeks' time.

"We will invite the Prime Minister to officiate IKUTAN," he said, adding that the Selangor will provide the launching grant while financing of IKUTAN will be through contributions by successful Bumiputera companies and businessmen.

Selangor Creativity and Innovation Council (Mangkin), which suggested the formation of IKUTAN, and ITM Entrepreneurs Development Centre (Medec) have been appointed secretariat for the setting up of IKUTAN.

Based on the paper on IKUTAN distributed at the meeting, the institute will be of world class providing opportunities to all Malay and Muslim entrepreneurs the world over to participate in its activities.

IKUTAN will among others provide training programmes and conduct researches as well as acting as consultant to Malay entrepreneurs venturing into high-tech and international trade.

IKUTAN will also conduct master's degree course on entrepreneur development with leading foreign universities for Malay entrepreneurs in Malaysia and in other countries. -- BERNAMA

MNY MTA ABg