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MAYC's debts reduced to RM12mil

KUANTAN, Sat. - The Malaysian Association of Youth Councils is confident of settling its debts despite problems caused by the ringgit's depreciation.

Initial talks with Bank Bumiputera and Bank Pertanian have been successful as the banks have agreed to reduce the debt from RM24 million to RM12 million.

MAYC deputy president Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Jaafar Albar said the initial debt to both banks was only RM7 million and RM8 million respectively. However, the amounts increased when the interest rates went up.

"We have asked the banks to reduce the interest rates and now we only owe them RM12 million.

"We have to find a source of income to facilitate the repayment.

"A few alternatives are being discussed by the MAYC committee," Syed Hamid said after the 34th MAYC Annual General Meeting yesterday.

He added that one possibility was to set up a fund. "We will be looking for new shareholders to join MAYC, but the majority of the shares will still be ours.

"We do not have a source of income and the money we make through the accommodation that we provide is not enough to meet the debt.

"Due to this, we are negotiating with a few people to find ways to solve this problem although the current drop in the ringgit has depressed the nation's economy," Syed Hamid said.

He said MAYC had been in debt for a long time and that the value of the building which the council had purchased with the bank loans had increased to about RM30 million.

Syed Hamid also stressed in his speech that all State MAYC leaders should make it a point to attend the national level meeting.

"I am very particular on this matter and I will suggest that in future, action be taken against MAYC leaders who do not attend the AGM more than two times, including their dismissal from the council."

At the meeting, MAYC which has about 360,000 members, also passed a resolution supporting the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Syed Hamid said the resolution was to show the Prime Minister that the MAYC fully supported the country's democratic practices.

"With this resolution, we want to voice out the views of the youths in our country who fully support Dr Mahathir and who are also against the proposed resolution by the 34 United States' Congressmen requesting our Prime Minister to apologise or to step down," he said.

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