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MB: Bumiputera entrepreneurs are much better off now

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Bumiputera entrepreneurs have gained much progress and are financially more stable compared to those in the past, Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib said tonight.

He said that in the past Bumiputera entrepreneurs were only active in the country and the Asia Pacific region.

However, they have now expanded their business to Europe, Latin America, Africa and the United States.

"The intention expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to produce more middle class Bumiputera entrepreneurs will not be realised if the entrepreneurs adopt an individualistic attitude."

Knowledge and skills gained should be shared by all entrepreneurs and they should adopt a co-operative attitude in ensuring further progress.

Muhammad said this in his speech at the annual dinner of the Selangor Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry held here.

He also said the Selangor Government had formed a special committee, headed by State Exco member Datuk Zainal Dahalan, to look into methods in producing more middle class Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

"The committee will study the matter and submit a report in a month's time on steps that have to be taken to produce more middle class Bumiputera entrepreneurs in Selangor and also the whole of Klang Valley."

At the same function, Muhammad also presented the 1996 Selangor Excellent Entrepreneur Awards to seven recipients. The winners were Tan Sri Azman Hashim (MB's Special Award), Datuk Shahrani Abdullah (Chairman's Special Award), Mohd Said Mat Saman (Contractor Entrepreneur Award), Embon Abdullah (Services Entrepreneur Award), Mohd Shah Datuk Abu Bakar (Manufacturer Entrepreneur Award), Datuk Mohamed Nor Ismail (Property Entrepreneur Award) and Datuk Baharudin Abu Kasim (Professional Entrepreneur Award).

Earlier, the chamber's acting chairman, Datuk Raduan Muhammad Taib, in his speech said the chamber supported the call by Dr Mahathir on the need to produce more middle class Bumiputera entrepreneurs.

"We support the Government's intention and will assist in whatever way we can."

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