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MUSTAPA-CONGRESS

CONGRESS TO DISCUSS MOVES TO STRENGTHEN BUMIS FOR THE FUTURE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- The two-day 4th Bumiputera Economic Congress beginning here from Friday will enhance the resilience and competitiveness of bumiputeras to face the future amidst a knowledge-based economic environment, entrepreneur development minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He said the congress also prepare the direction for bumiputeras in a knowledge-based economy.

"We hope to have impact. We have big aspirations, just like the previous congresses," he said, adding that two months of preparations had gone into the staging of the congress.

To be held at the PWTC, it will be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The previous congresses had made several contributions towards the economic advancement of bumiputeras and they include the formation of Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA) and Bank Bumiputra Malaysia Bhd.

Speaking at a press conference here, Mustapa said the 4th Congress would also evaluate the achievements of bumiputeras since the New Economic Policy and the effects of the recent recession.

Although the past would be used as a platform, he said "what is important is that we should look towards the future and prepare bumiputeras to face a knowledge-based economy."

Among the issues to be discussed is culture and religion towards moulding capable bumiputeras.

To date, about 700 participants are expected to attend the congress but Mustapa hoped that the number could rise to 1,000. This year's congress will also include bumiputeras from Sabah and Sarawak.

Inputs from the congress would be forwarded to the National Economic Consultative Council II.

The president of the Malay Chambers of Commerce, Malaysia, Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli, said more than 60 resolutions would be tabled at the congress. -- BERNAMA

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