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Discard 'tidak apa' attitude, entrepreneurs told

ALOR STAR, Mon. - Malay entrepreneurs have been advised to discard the tidak apa (couldn't care less) attitude in order to catch up with other communities.

National Malay Chamber of Commerce president Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli said this was especially important during the economic downturn, where Malay entrepreneurs had fallen further behind other communities.

"Malays should not only concentrate on becoming minority shareholders in companies.

"They should not be satisfied with just holding 30 per cent stake but strive to become majority shareholders," he said in his speech at a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between Kedah Malay Chamber of Commerce and Syarikat Takaful Nasional (STN).

Under the MoU, chamber members would pay RM10 premium annually to STN for insurance coverage.

Tajuddin said the Government was committed to improving the welfare of Malays but the community itself should take the initiative.

Among the sectors in which they needed to catch up were transportation, information technology and telecommunications.

Tajuddin also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's revelations about foreigners trying to recolonise the country were for real and not aimed at scaring the people.

Citing an example of when Malacca was colonised by the Portuguese in the 16th century, Tajuddin said the State fell to foreign powers because the locals were not prepared to defend themselves.

Tajuddin said locals should emulate the Japanese who wasted no time in developing their country after it was almost destroyed in the second world war.

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