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BUMIPUTERA-INTERACTION

MUSTAPA: SET UP A PLATFORM FOR BUMI PROFESSIONALS TO INTERACT

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- There is a need to set up a platform or mechanism where professional Bumiputeras could interact, said Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, the patron of the Main Committee of the Congress of Young Malay Professionals (KPPM) 2000, here today.

Such a platform would enable Bumiputera professionals to interact with the private sector or the government and vice versa.

"I feel there is much which can be achieved through regular interaction so that we can inject to them any projection from the government or other parties, if there are any," he told reporters after Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad officiated KPPM 2000.

Mustapa, who is adviser to the Finance Ministry, said that he also meet up regularly with young professionals, and it is hoped that after the congress ends, a permanent platform for them to interact could be set up.

The two-day KPPM 2000 is organised by ANSARA, Maktab Rendah Sains Mara former students' association, which is chaired by Mukhriz Mahathir.

The congress theme for the current meeting is "Challenges of K-Economy (Knowledge-based Economy) for Malay Professionalism."

Mustapa also said that recently some Bumiputera professionals had questioned some of the approaches taken by the government whereas they were the products of the New Economic Policy.

"So it is hoped that the congress could instill the spirit of love for the country, be thankful to the new economic policy...unite them back and discuss issues which would be focused in the new millennium," he added.

Asked whether Bumiputera professionals were prepared to face K-Economy, Mustapa said that they need to instill in themselves a knowledge culture in order to be part of the flow of K-Economy.

And Mustapa reminded them that it is not only K-Economy, the globalisation trend would also require them to be more competitive as everything would be dynamic and moving fast.

Meanwhile, Mukhriz said it was too early to say whether or not Bumiputera professionals had enough resources to face K-Economy.

He said: "This is why we organise the Congress. In each workshop we will discuss what the challenges are, our situation compared with other races whether locally or in foreign countries, what we need to do for our race."

KPPM 2000 which is being attended by some 1,500 participants have set up five workshops namely entrepreneurship; financial; human resources and education; culture and high technology; and sosial and religion. -- BERNAMA

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