

28/02/2000

Professionals back call for paradigm shift

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Participants at the Young Malay Professionals Congress, which ended yesterday, have welcomed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for a paradigm shift in the community.

They agreed with the Prime Minister that Bumiputeras should change some of their values to suit their needs in the modern environment.

"If we do not change (our mindset), how are we going to progress?," Islamic International University law school undergraduate Zakiah Samori asked.

Zakiah felt that it was crucial for the Bumiputera community to seek changes in their "thinking and way of doing things".

She said Bumiputeras should work hard always and not depend only on the Government.

She also felt Bumiputeras must be selective in their pursuit of change and progress.

"Perhaps, it may be true that some of our values are becoming impractical in the face of modernisation but changes must be pursued along the line of modern reality.

"We do need to change, of course, but don't be overzealous."

Chemical engineer Akhramsyah Sanusi, commenting on Dr Mahathir's view on the need to "marry culture with knowledge", had this to say:

"In our struggle to fully embrace information technology and to take advantage of the k-economy, we must not forget our culture.

"While we must take advantage of the k-economy, we must also look at k-culture and k-values," he said.

Baby Home (M) Sdn Bhd managing director Naemah Ali, who commented on the relationship between Malay culture and Islam, said there was still a need to further inculcate Islamic values in Malay culture.

"We have to continue incorporating Islamic values into our way of life ... and make sure that this will benefit our younger generation," she said.

Calfarme (Singapore) Pte Ltd franchise development manager Norol Azali Sulaiman, commenting on the need for Bumiputeras to excel in the franchising business, said:

"Bumiputeras should be given a wider choice in the franchising business. This calls for greater development of the franchise business sector in this country.

"One way of doing it would be to franchise more local products so that more opportunities would be created for Bumiputeras to participate in such a business."

The congress ended today with 25 resolutions adopted and passed.