

11 JAN 2002

Mahathir-Entrepreneurs

STUDY AND OVERCOME WEAKNESSES, DR M TOLD MALAY ENTREPRENEURS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the youth chamber of the Malaysian Malay Chambers of Commerce with a reminder that Malay entrepreneurs need to study reasons for their weaknesses and strive to overcome them.

The Prime Minister said remedial measures should include inculcating virtues such as patience and perseverance as well as cultural values that have been time-tested recipes for success.

Displaying wisdom in seizing business opportunities and making the most of funds provided to launch their ventures were also pre-requisites for success, he said.

Emphasising the need for experience as well, Dr Mahathir said: "One lacking experience should work first to gain it and learn the nitty-gritty of doing business."

The launch was held at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

Dr Mahathir said while the common talk was that many Malay-run businesses had to close down after facing depletion of capital, the reality remained that the choice of a business venture should be compatible with the funding aspect.

Ignoring to maintain business discipline could also be a pitfall, he said.

The Prime Minister said one fact which had to be acknowledged was that this country had a policy of giving priority to Bumiputeras but after more than 40 years of independence, other races in Malaysia appeared to be more successful.

Dr Mahathir said among the factors that could have led to this situation was the Malay culture which did not attach importance to the education aspect and the mastering of knowledge.

"Our achievement is still weak, not commensurate with the effort, opportunities and facilities that have been given...even though there are 24 million Malaysians, the number of educated Malays is very few compared to the Chinese and Indians," he said.

He urged Malays particularly students to correct their attitude by showing interest in their studies and at the same time rectifying the situation where there were more woman students at local institutions of higher learning at present.

The Prime Minister also said there were allegations that the Chinese were more successful because they cheated but this was not the actual truth.

The Prime Minister said the Chinese practised principles that contributed to their success such as striving and hardwork.

Earlier, Azlan Shah Jaffril, Chairman of the Dewan Muda, in his speech said the formation of the body was to create an effective mechanism to produce more young Malay entrepreneurs.

It was not a place to enable them to get contracts.

Instead the Dewan Muda would assist them to have networking and facilitate communication with government officers to resolve any problem.

It would also serve to disseminate information on the more than 30 funds that had been set up to help young entrepreneurs and organise programmes to explain current issues in local and global business.

The idea of such a body was mooted by the President of the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Maidin

and membership is open to male Malay entrepreneurs aged between 18 and 35.

-- BERNAMA

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