

03 JAN 2002

CHAMBER-ENTREPRENEURS

DPMM HOPES DEWAN MUDA WILL CREATE MORE COMPETITIVE MALAY ENTREPRENEURS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (Bernama) -- The Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (DPMM) hopes that its latest portfolio called "Dewan Muda" will create more Malay male entrepreneurs capable of competing in the globalisation era.

Speaking at the Dewan Muda pre-launch here today, its chairman Azlan Shah Jaffril Azlan Shah said that Dewan Muda was set up as there was a need for the present group of young entrepreneurs to be more united and aware of the current world economic environment.

"They prefer to go their own ways and are not that sensitive to the current economic issues. They say that they have heard of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO) but they do not know in its entirety what is meant by WTO and Afta," he said.

As such, he said that there should be more focus on efforts to equip the youths with knowledge and skills to enable them to adapt themselves to the rapid economic development and globalisation era.

Azlan Shah said that in this aspect Dewan Muda would hold business seminars and set up retail bazaars nationwide.

He also said that some of the objectives of Dewan Muda were to create business networking between Malay traders and to share business information with other entrepreneurs clubs under the DPMM.

He said that for the first year, DPMM has targeted some 500 to 2,000 memberships for Dewan Muda.

Dewan Muda was set up in July last year under a restructuring programme by DPMM who is now led by Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Maidin. It is established especially for Malay males of between 18 to 35 years old.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially launch Dewan Muda on Jan 11 at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC). -- BERNAMA

FAY OS FR