

Co-operative schooling

It will nurture business skills in students, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Co-operatives should be made part of co-curricular activities at school, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Abdullah said setting up co-operatives in schools would give students the right business exposure.

He said there were now over 2,000 schools with co-operatives in the country, which had benefited students by helping them develop business skills.

Abdullah said it was not easy to manage a co-operative as teamwork

was necessary to make it a success.

"When students are exposed to co-operative activities, they will naturally stay with the movement after leaving school," Abdullah said in his speech when launching the National Co-operative Day 2006 at the Mines International Exhibition and Convention Centre here yesterday.

"This will help support the co-operative institution in the country."

He added that he would meet Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein on ways to incorporate co-operative activities at

educational institutions.

He also urged co-operative managers to attend financial management courses to improve their skills to ensure the success of their co-operatives.

Abdullah said he wanted co-operatives to come up with the best possible system to manage their organisations.

He said he was pleased with the encouraging performance of co-operatives in the country.

"There are now 4,771 co-operatives with 5.68 million members; shares or

fees totalling RM6.84bil and assets worth RM34.86bil."

Later, Entrepreneur and Co-operative Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin told a press conference that only 9.8% of co-operatives in the country were dormant.

He also said some co-operatives had been set up for tontine purposes but members had later lost interest and pulled out.

Mohamed Khaled said his ministry was now concentrating on viable co-operatives and also finding ways to rehabilitate ailing ones.