

Strive to improve, PM tells entrepreneurs

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said entrepreneurs should strive to be bigger and better, and not just be satisfied with their current achievements.

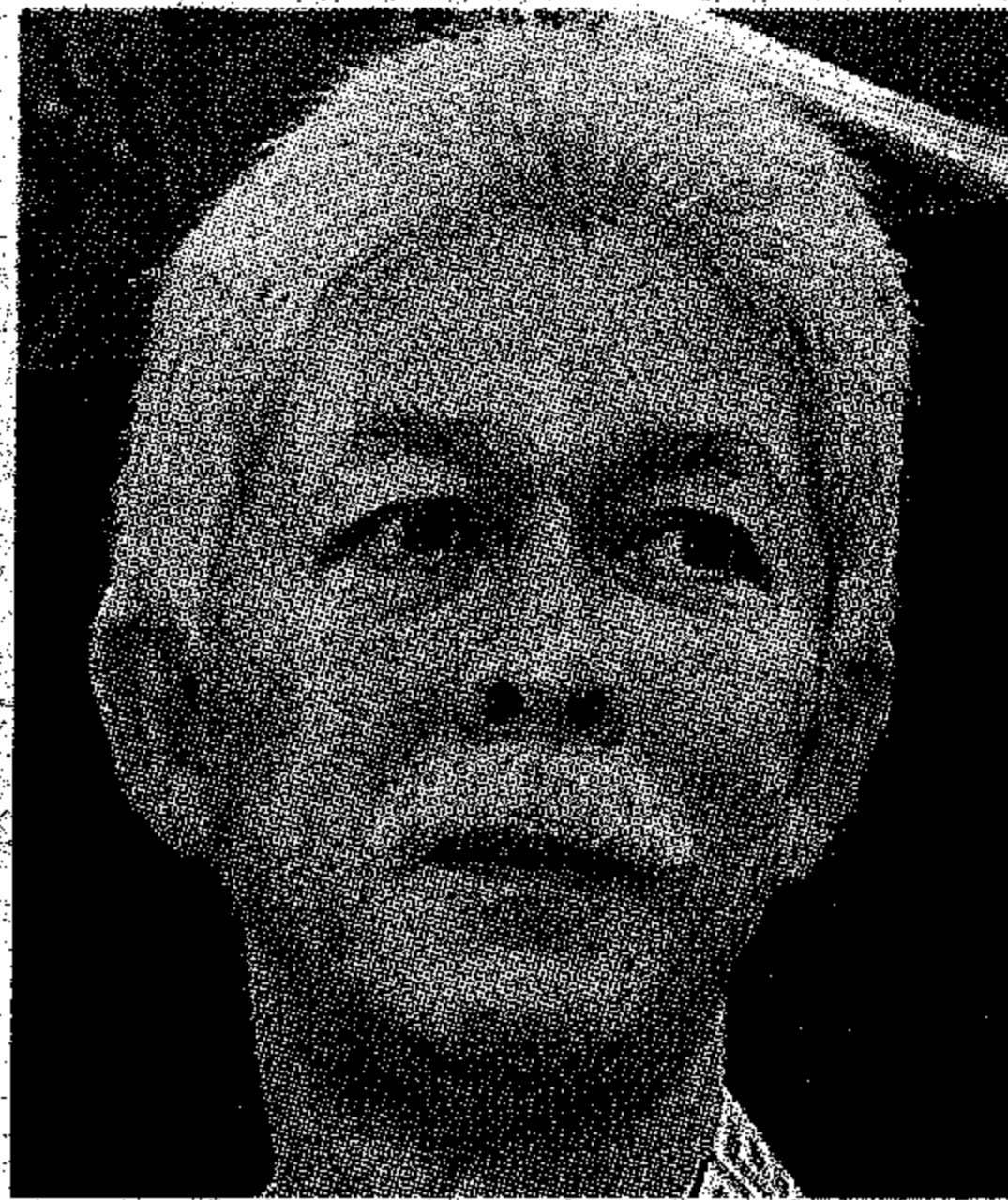
The prime minister said entrepreneurs with small companies should merge with others to learn how to manage bigger companies.

In citing an example, Abdullah said they could form a consortium.

"If you learn how to manage a small company, you are just a small-time manager. But if you succeed in managing a big company, you can be a bigger manager and gain more knowledge," he said at the Malaysian Malay Chamber of Commerce (DPMM) Entrepreneur Award dinner last night.

He said a merger would also enable them to fight for bigger opportunities as smaller companies will not be offered big business deals.

However, he said having opportunities is not good enough if entrepreneurs do not know how to leverage on them as well as man-



Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican was conferred the Chief Executive Officer Special Award

age them.

He said the characteristics of an ideal entrepreneur is someone who is creative, forward-looking, ready to take risks and has good management skills.

He said it is hard to find an entrepreneur with good management skills.

Abdullah said to be quality entrepreneurs, businessmen should build and improve on their human capital development and management.

"We do not want to see entrepreneurs who build their businesses, but hand it over to other people to run it, while they sit back and collect their profits.

"We want people who can create value because this will ensure that we achieve the (30 per cent Bumiputera) equity," he said.

He said when the government introduced the New Economic Policy, it was aimed at addressing the economic imbalance and ensuring a minimum 30 per cent equity for Bumiputeras.

"At that time, the Bumiputera equity was two per cent. Unfortunately, we have yet to achieve the 30 per cent target."

However, Abdullah is proud of Malay entrepreneurs who had succeeded and noted that today, it is feasible to see young Malay managers of top calibre running not only Malaysian businesses, but foreign companies as well.

In illustrating an example, Abdullah said Petronas is a truly respected Malaysian company that is known worldwide.

"It is one of the world's top seven oil companies and many of its middle to top management are Malays," he said.

He said in today's globalised

world filled with challenges, the nation needed capable and strong candidates to tackle the changing world.

"Our human capital needs to be developed and polished to ensure it shines. I hope the chamber will assist them by offering more opportunities to our entrepreneurs."

Abdullah also gave out awards to five outstanding entrepreneurs.

Petronas's Tan Sri Mohd Hassan Marican was conferred the Chief Executive Officer Special Award, while the Female Entrepreneur Award recipient was Mimi @ Rahmah Abdul Karim of Aquasis (M) Sdn Bhd.

The Original Entrepreneur Award went to Glomac Bhd group executive chairman Tan Sri Mohamed Mansor Fateh Din and the Innovative Entrepreneur Award was bagged by Prof Datuk Dr Norbik Bashah Idris of Scan Bhd.

The Heritage Entrepreneur Award was awarded to the late Datuk Megat Mohamed Abdul Wahab Megat Abu Bakar of Mariwasa Kraftangan Sdn Bhd.

He died on Thursday and his award was received on his behalf by his wife, Datin Putri Rafidah Megat Noh, who is also the company's chief executive officer.