

**Cooperatives Help Govt Pursues Racial Harmony Agenda - Muhyiddin  
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JITRA, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- The cooperative movement has helped the government pursued the racial harmony and unity agenda as well as blend diversity in society for the well-being of the people, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said the cooperative movement was part of national reconciliation efforts engaged by the government to curb extremism perpetrated by certain parties to disrupt unity.

"If we were to look back into the history of cooperative movement, we will find that cooperatives were set up to defend oppressed workers during the 19th Century Revolution in Europe where capitalists held the upper hand.

"Through cooperatives, funds raised from members were used to provide credit facilities to members and generate economic and social activities for the benefit and well-being of members as they were not merely profit-driven," he said when launching the National Cooperative Day 2013 themed 'Cooperative Movement Catalyst for Society's Well-being' here, Saturday.

Muhyiddin said the government strived to champion the people through cooperative movement which flourished for almost a century since it was founded in 1922.

Held yearly in July since 2002, the National Cooperatives Day 2013 was postponed to August due to the fasting month of Ramadan.

Present were Muhyiddin's wife, Puan Sri Noorainee Abdul Rahman, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir, Perlis Menteri Besar Azlan Man, Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Hasan Malek and his deputy, Datuk Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah.

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