

Penyampai : TAN SRI DATO SERI AHMAD SARJI BIN ABDUL HAMID  
Tajuk : THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE IKIM-SEDC SARAWAK SEMINAR ON ISLAMIC  
VALUES AND MANAGEMENT  
Lokasi : KUCHING, SARAWAK  
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I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Y.A.B. Tan Sri Taib Mahmud, the Chief Minister and Chairman of SEDC Sarawak and Y.B. Datuk Effendi Norwawi the Chief Executive Officer for their continuous commitment towards excellence and quality in pursuit of the ultimate objectives of this organisation. This seminar is yet another example of the commitment of Y.B. Datuk Effendi Norwawi whose untiring efforts in looking for a new cliché or new methods in his pursuit for excellence has made him identify that there is in Islam something that can trigger that passion for excellence in himself as well as in all his officers and staff in order to sustain and improve their performance all the time. The Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia or IKIM is privileged to be given this honour and opportunity to jointly organise this seminar because we firmly believe that Islam offers solutions to problems and not offer problems to mankind.

The theme of this seminar, Religious Values As A Basis For Attaining Excellence, has been specially chosen to create the general awareness of the role that religion can play in attaining excellence and quality. We know that religion is a belief system which implies the presence of commitment, a bond or covenant between us and our Lord. Of course, the degree or extent of this commitment or covenant varies from person to person. One important fact that we have to recognise is that such a covenant would act as a strong anchor within ourselves to act or behave in a manner enjoined upon us by our own belief system. As such, the more religious one is, the more committed he or she should be towards excellence and quality. The absence of religious values in one would therefore eliminate that anchor we are talking about. The commitment to excellence and quality will not have their roots within ourselves. This root or anchor indeed provides the genuine strength in the commitment that we so much require. This I believe is the difference that religion can contribute towards excellence and quality.

Although we confine ourselves to Islamic values on excellence and quality, I do firmly believe that these values are universal in character for two reasons. First, they are positive values, in the sense that they are acceptable to all people. Secondly, since all religions teach people about goodness, then these positive values should also be acceptable to the staff despite our respective faiths. It is for this reason that both SEDC Sarawak and IKIM have agreed to jointly hold this seminar which will be of benefit to us all.

Every religion teaches us to be productive. One of the most important values that requires to be imbibed in all employees is to be committed to productivity. So, SEDC Sarawak must have that crusading mission to eliminate unproductive practices, which include those that contribute little to the achievement of the organisation, or your enterprise objectives. I wish to refer to some rules, regulations or requirements or simply traditional operations that present roadblocks to effective work or impede productivity. Dealing with unproductive practices generally involves the elimination of, or modification of activity, methods or procedures. The simplest and most effective way to do this is to identify unproductive work. Antara amalan-amalan negatif, dan perlu dilarang adalah:

- (i) berbual-bual kosong di pejabat;
- (ii) tidak menyegerakan tugas yang diamanahkan;
- (iii) tidak ada sense of urgency menjalankan sesuatu tugas yang diberikan;
- (iv) tidak merancang pekerjaan terlebih dahulu;
- (v) tidak ada prioriti dalam menjalankan beberapa tugas yang diberikan;
- (vi) melayan tetamu yang tidak berkenaan di pejabat;

(vii) meninggalkan pejabat untuk urusan peribadi pada waktu rasmi kerja;

(viii) membuat kerja peribadi di pejabat;

(ix) berniaga di waktu pejabat;

(x) membuat kerja yang tidak mustahak;

(xi) membuang masa di kantin dalam waktu bertugas; dan

(xii) pembaziran masa bekerja.

SEDC Sarawak ini hendaklah dipupuk sehingga boleh muncul sebagai salah satu yang terbilang di rantau ini.

Banyak peraturan-peraturan dan prosedur baru mengenai pengurusan telah diperkenalkan. Biarpun demikian, yang sama penting adalah sikap dan nilai anggota organisasi ini sendiri. Antara nilai-nilai utama yang perlu diamalkan oleh semua anggota SEDC ini adalah amanah, kerajinan dan ketekunan, berdisiplin dan tatasesia. Kita hendaklah menganggap bahawa kerja itu adalah sebagai ibadah dengan menghasilkan sesuatu yang berfaedah, dan tidak menganggap kerja itu sebagai satu bebanan dan hanya menunggu arahan.

Anggota-anggota organisasi ini daripada semua kaum hendaklah senantiasa mengamalkan kepimpinan melalui teladan.

Rasulullah (SAW) pernah bersabda: "Sebaik-baik kamu ialah orang paling berfaedah kepada orang lain". Seorang ketua yang baik itu adalah seorang yang akan mempengaruhi anggota-anggotanya, sama ada dari segi kepimpinan, akhlak, tutur kata atau tingkah lakunya yang mendatangkan kebaikan kepada anggota-anggota yang dipimpinnya. Seorang ketua yang melanggar peraturan dan perintah adalah menunjukkan contoh yang tidak baik kepada anggota-anggota bawahannya.

On behalf of IKIM, I would like to record our appreciation to YAB Tan Sri Taib Mahmud, The Chief Minister for his gracious presence this morning.