



**KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
USAHAWAN DAN KOPERASI**
Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives

PRESS RELEASE

COOP IN SARAWAK SHOULD DRIVE RURAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kuching, March 27, 2021 - Cooperative sector in Sarawak should can take on a more active role in the socio-economic development of the state, particularly in rural areas, by investing in businesses with enormous multiplier effect that would benefit the community – particularly the Bumiputera group.

Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Dato Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar in order to truly embrace the spirit of “Memasyarakatkan Gerakan Koperasi”, cooperatives need to be more involved in business activities that would not only benefit its members but the local community as well.

In order to remain relevant, and to be able to withstand the increasingly challenging business environment, he said role cooperatives need to evolve more than just becoming money lenders to their members.

He said cooperatives need to invest in businesses that would not only bring in higher dividends for its members, but can also help in the socio-economic development of a community via creation of jobs, bringing in infrastructure and many more.

“Cooperatives need to move with time and be more dynamic. To achieve this, there is indeed a dire need for the movement to start bringing in more new blood, particularly professionals, to bring cooperative sector to higher heights,” he said at a ‘Ke Arah Memasyarakatkan Koperasi 2021’ programme by IKM and Malaysia Prihatin programme held in Lundu, here, today.

In view of this, Dr Wan Junaidi said Cooperative Institute of Malaysia (IKM) has been given the important task to address talent gap within the cooperatives movement.

He said MEDAC is currently in the process of upgrading IKM into a university and once that is done, the institute would be able to train cooperative members with the right skills that would contribute towards enhancing the movement further.

“The government has high hopes for cooperatives to be one of the main growth engine of the economy. We are targeting for the cooperative sector to contribute RM100 billion to the nation’s GDP by 2030. To achieve this, we certainly need people with the right skill set to bring this movement further,” he said.

On another issue, Dr Wan Junaidi called on Malaysians to register themselves for the COVID-19 immunisation to help the country in curbing the spread of the pandemic.

As of March 23, only 6.4 million Malaysians, representing 26.56% of the population, have registered to be vaccinated. In Sarawak, only 504, 262 (24.34 per cent) have signed up for the immunisation programme.

“It is the responsibility of everyone to stop the spread of COVID-19. To effectively fight this, we need to go for the vaccination. We have seen the devastating effect of the pandemic, both on the people’s safety as well as the economy. Let’s do our part to stop this,” he added.

Meanwhile at the event, Dr Wan Junaidi, who is also Santubong Member of Parliament, presented RM176,000 worth of donations and assistance to recipients in Lundu & Sempadi areas

This include RM110,000 Minor Rural Project (MRP) grants to 14 organisations in Tanjung Datu area, RM60,000 donations under Bank Rakyat Back to School Programme to students in Tanjung Datu, RM3,500 assistance to fire victims from kampong Sileng in Lundu and RM2500 donation to B40 groups under IKM CSR programme.

MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES