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Tajuk : **NEW DIRECTIONS FOR COOPERATIVES AMONG ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT NATIONAL CONGRESS 2024**

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KUALA LUMPUR, The National Cooperative Congress 2024, which will be held for two days beginning July 25, will among other things, discuss issues, initiatives and new directions aimed at strengthening the role of the cooperative movement.

Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Berhad (Angkasa) president Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Fattah Abdullah said this would be the third congress, with the last edition taking place 53 years ago in March 1971 and the first one in 1966.

'Various changes in the national and global economic landscapes have occurred since the last congress. Changes are required to ensure the cooperative movement remains relevant and competitive, along with a review of the current rules and acts to ensure they are in line with these changes.

'This Congress will also discuss how the cooperative movement can assist the government in addressing current challenges, such as the cost of living and stimulating economic growth,' he told a press conference here today.

Abdul Fattah also views the congress as a platform to revise the cooperative's strategic plan in an effort to help 15,000 cooperatives and their 7.2 million members.

According to him, the congress would focus on four key areas, namely the cooperative identity; cooperative acts, regulations, and governance; education and human capital within cooperatives; and cooperative business competitiveness.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is scheduled to officiate the closing ceremony of the congress themed 'Koperasi Pemangkin Ekonomi MADANI', with more than 7,000 people expected to attend the two-day event both physically and via online platforms.

The organisation of the congress at the World Trade Centre (WTC) here is supported by the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives, along with cooperation from the Cooperatives Commission of Malaysia and the Co-operative Institute of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, Abdul Fattah said the cooperative movement contributed RM64.6 billion last year, exceeding the government's RM60 billion target by 2025.

However, he hopes for cooperatives to move forward while increasing their contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), considering that the contribution of national cooperatives is lower compared to neighbouring countries such as Singapore, Indonesia, and Thailand.