

M'sian cooperatives remain stable

SHAH ALAM: Cooperative institutions in Malaysia have so far remained stable and have not been seriously affected despite facing pressures from the global supply crisis, which has also impacted the country's economic sector.



Deputy Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperatives Development (Kuskop) Datuk Mohamad Alamin (pic) said, however, his ministry will continue to monitor current developments and obtain detailed reports to ensure any issues can be addressed promptly.

"So far, I have not heard of any severe impact among the cooperatives, but we will obtain a report soon and ensure that assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs in need," he said.

He told reporters at the inauguration ceremony of the Career and Entrepreneurship Course for Students of the National Co-operative Movement of Malaysia Bhd (Angkasa) Education Foundation 2026 Session, held at the Wyndham Garden i-City Hotel last night. Also present were Angkasa president and Angkasa Foundation chairman, Datuk Seri Dr Abdul Fattah Abdullah, and Co-operative Institute of Malaysia (CIM) director-general Datuk Mohd Ali Mansor.

Mohamad said that in facing the global energy crisis, the ministry will also take proactive steps to help micro, small and medium enterprises and cooperatives tackle current economic challenges, including loan restructuring and moratorium assistance and various support programmes through agencies such as Bank Kerjasama Rakyat Malaysia Bhd.

Regarding the inauguration of the

course, Mohamad said the management and career guidance programme, which brings together graduates from various fields, is important in developing human capital that is not only excellent in their respective fields but also equipped with understanding and skills in the co-operative sector.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Angkasa for today's initiative together with CIM that has successfully conducted this course. After this, we will hold it in Sabah and Sarawak to involve the children of cooperatives through various advanced courses, as this may be a basic-level course," he said.

The course was attended by 90 final-year students under the educational sponsorship of the Angkasa Foundation from across the country. The programme is an annual initiative aimed at providing comprehensive exposure to co-operative management, entrepreneurship and career preparation before the participants enter the workforce.

Through collaboration with CIM, the course is structured to include co-operative management certification, soft skills development and entrepreneurial thinking, as well as new content such as the Voice of Future Leaders session, which allows students to interact directly with co-operative leaders and gain industry insights.

Since its introduction in 2000 until 2026, a total of 2,095 students have been sponsored to participate in the programme, with funding amounting to RM37.5 million, as a continuous effort to produce a new generation of co-operators who are not only academically strong but also possess practical skills, leadership and entrepreneurial spirit, thereby encouraging students to view the co-operative sector as a potential career choice. -Bernama