

# Participate in cooperative entrepreneurship youths told

NST 10.10.2017 4

By ERIC BAGANG

**KOTA KINABALU:** Youths are urged to emulate their western counterparts in participating in cooperative entrepreneurship.

Youth and Sports Minister, Datuk Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan said that this will reduce their economic dependence on government by creating job opportunities that suit youths' interests and skills through the pooling of financial resources, knowledge, and skills.

He said that Malaysia should emulate western countries' social economic approach in addressing the global economic uncertainties which is also affecting Malaysia.

Citing cooperative entrepreneurship

in Europe as example, he said that they are economic organisations that emphasise self-help and solidarity principle in mitigating the increasing cost of living among students in higher learning institutions.

"Cooperatives in higher learning institutions can also be avenues for the students to put the knowledge they acquired in the classrooms into practice.

"It also provides exposure and opportunities for them to develop their soft skills such as leadership, cooperation, unity, communication and critical thinking," he said in his speech when officiating the Cooperative Seminar 2017. It was co-organised by Maktab Koperasi Malaysia (Sabah), Sabah Youth and Sports Ministry, Malaysia

Cooperative Commission (SKM), and Universiti Malaysia Sabah and held at UMS yesterday.

He said cooperatives in the United Kingdom have benefited 17.5 million members and provided 223,000 job opportunities contributing some £34 billion to the country's economy in 2016.

According to Tawfiq, Malaysian cooperatives also need innovative inputs from the youths to boost the cooperatives so they can stimulate economic growth.

Tawfiq's speech was delivered by Youth and Sports Assistant Minister, Datuk Masiung Banah.

Also present at the event was Maktab Koperasi Malaysia director general, Dr Abdul Rahman Abdul Razak Shaik.