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# 'Excellence needed to achieve Vision 2020'

Jonathan Chia

An organisation or country that has a high level of integrity always holds on to the concept of honesty.

Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister

**KUCHING:** The country needs both the public and private sectors to practise organisational excellence in its march towards developed status by 2020.

Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said this calls for all stakeholders to observe a high level of integrity, produce high quality work, and treat knowledge as a lifelong pursuit.

"An organisation or country that has a high level of integrity always holds on to the concept of honesty. This means that we must always be honest in administering policies, programmes and government projects, always sincere in giving advices and opinions, and not hiding important and necessary information that will affect the performance," he said at the opening of Excellent Organisational Management seminar organised by Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) here yesterday.

His text-of-speech was read out by Minister of Housing Datuk

Amar Abang Johari Tun Openg.

The chief minister said producing high quality work was essential for any organisation or country.

"If this attitude (of producing quality work) is there, the people will always strive to find new techniques, methodologies and systems to improve their products or services."

Taib said he disagreed with views that quality work was a "time consuming" task. He opined that quality work could be achieved immediately or within a short time frame when there's organisational excellence.

"Innovation and creativity are also important for successful transformations. The people must always see how innovation can bring benefits or results that will improve organisational excellence."

Taib also stressed on the importance for all workers to pursue knowledge as a life-long concern. They could do this through reading, observing, listening and exchanging ideas.

"A knowledgeable worker will contribute towards the effectiveness and efficiency of an organisation. This can be seen from the products measured through the quality of writing, the output quantity, shorter time

and lower cost of production, reduction in complaints received, and faster and correct decisions."

On a personal note, Abang Johari said the basic principle of

organisational management is the need to change with the changing environment.

"The tools of management before are different from what we have now," he said.

"Twenty years ago, when we studied management, we were introduced to information technology (IT), which was a new subject to us. From that day until today, we could see a lot of changes just in IT alone."

Abang Johari, who is also Minister of Tourism, said having the latest information was vital to make correct decisions.

"In the environment we are in today, we must keep ourselves updated with current happenings. If you're not at the same pace with the present environment, you will be left behind in terms of competitiveness."

Also present at the launching were Sarawak Economic Development Corporation chairman Datuk Talib Zulpilip, Inland Revenue Board chief executive officer Tan Sri Dr Mohd Shukor Mahfar and UUM vice-chancellor Prof Dato Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak.

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**LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN:** Abang Johari (fourth left) launching the Excellent Organisational Management seminar organised by UUM. Also seen are Mohd Shukor (left), Mohamed Mustafa (second left) and Talib (second right). — Photo by Muhammad Rais Sanusi