

Mahathir way to peace in industry

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has stressed the need for employers and workers to be considerate and reasonable with each other if industrial harmony is to be achieved.

The Minister was addressing a seminar this morning on job evaluation and wage determination organised by the MTUC and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation of West Germany.

Congratulating the organisers of the seminar on the subject chosen, Dr. Mahathir said it was important that both employers and unions understand the basis on which negotiation for wages were conducted.

He warned of the dangerous effect of uncontrolled wage increases on the cost of living, leading to a vicious circle.

He advised workers to be reasonable in their claims and employers to be fair and provide adequate reward for labour.

"I hope the 35 participants from the various unions will benefit from the seminar and pass on their knowledge to other officials of their unions," the Minister added.

MTUC Deputy President, Mr. T. Narendran spoke of attempts by some employers to subvert the aims and objectives of the Code of Conduct for Industrial Peace.

"These employers have refused to enter into effective negotiations with unions, refused to set up machinery for consultation and have threatened to lock out their employees.

Practical steps

possibility of national organisations of employers to ensure that their members take practical steps to respect and abide by the rules in the Code drawn up by joint understanding and agreement," he added.

Mr. Narendran also regretted the attitude of some employers in "deliberately and consciously disregarding industrial court awards and falling back on technical points in the law to take the matter to higher courts."

"Undoubtedly this kind of attitude will destroy the industrial relations pattern the Government and the labour movement is trying to build," he said.

The two-week seminar will include lectures by university lecturers, ILO experts and MTUC and employers' organisation representatives.

The seminar will be closed by Petronas chairman, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah on July 19.