

MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 6 (BERNAMA)—DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY TOOK TO TASK THE MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC) FOR CRITICISING THE TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS OF THE MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MIDA).

MIDA WAS ALLEGED TO HAVE SAID THAT LABOUR IN MALAYSIA WAS CHEAP AND THAT DISMISSAL, RETRENCHMENT AND PROMOTION IN A COMPANY WERE THE PREROGATIVES OF THE MANAGEMENT.

THE MTUC CRITICISM WAS VOICED AT ITS RECENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

LABOUR WAS NOT CHEAP IN THE MALAYSIAN CONTEXT, SAID DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR UPON HIS RETURN FROM A 20-DAY HOLIDAY IN EUROPE.

+IN TERMS OF PURCHASING POWER, WAGES IN MALAYSIA ARE ABOUT THE SAME AS THOSE IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE MTUC WAS +SELFISH+ IN CARING ONLY FOR ITS MEMBERS. —BERNAMA MORE 2030/MD

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MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+BUT IN OUR TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS ABROAD, WE ARE THINKING ABOUT THE FUTURE MEMBERS OF THE MTUC WHO ARE AMONG THE SEVEN PER CENT UNEMPLOYED IN THE MALAYSIAN LABOUR FORCE.

+ON THE OTHER HAND, WHAT HAS THE MTUC DONE FOR THE PROMOTION OF TRADE AND HENCE EMPLOYMENT FOR THAT SEVEN PER CENT OF UNEMPLOYED WHEN COMPARED TO MIDA?

HE SAID THAT AN APPLE IN JAPAN COST \$8 AND ASKED WHETHER THE MTUC WANTED ITS MEMBERS TO PAY THAT MUCH FOR AN APPLE IN MALAYSIA, WITH A HIGHER PAY.

ON THE CONCORDE, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, SAID THE REASON WHY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECIDED TO ALLOW A SIX-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD FOR OVER-FLIGHT OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS TO SEE WHETHER THE FLIGHTS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT. —BERNAMA 2035/MD