

UMNO-LABOUR
BM

207

7a (e)
KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 7 ((BERNAMA)) -- DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT NEGLECT THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY WHEN AMENDMENTS WERE MADE TO THE EXISTING LABOUR LAWS.

HE SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THE FACT THAT LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS WAS IMPORTANT.

HOWEVER, HE ADDED, SOME PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING LABOUR LAWS WERE NO LONGER APPLICABLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO'S DEPUTY PRESIDENT, SAID THIS WHEN WINDING UP THE DEBATE ON THE UMNO YOUTH RESOLUTION ON LABOUR LAWS AT THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY HERE.

THE RESOLUTION HAD URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE NEW LABOUR LAWS IN LINE WITH THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY AND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

-- BERNAMA MORE 1155/SZ

EE

NO06 (F)

UMNO-LABOUR 2 KUALA LUMPUR

THE RESOLUTION ALSO URGED THE WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT IN INTRODUCING AND IMPLEMENTING NEW LABOUR LEGISLATION TO PROMOTE HARMONY, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN THE COUNTRY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID: +BEFORE WE THINK OF AMENDING THE LABOUR LAWS OF THE COUNTRY, WE MUST REALISE THAT THE WORKERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION.+

HE SAID THAT IN THE PAST, WHEN TRADE UNIONS DID NOT EXIST, THE WORKERS HAD LIVED IN FEAR AND UNREST.

THE EMPLOYERS, HE SAID, HAD CONCENTRATED ON MAKING LARGE PROFITS AND HAD RESORTED TO ANYTHING TO ACHIEVE THAT END.

+THEY PAID LOW WAGES TO THEIR EMPLOYEES AND DID NOT PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY AMENITIES.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1200/SZ

EE

NO07 (F)

UMNO-LABOUR 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT THE EXISTING LABOUR LAWS IN THE COUNTRY WERE DRAWN UP BY THE BRITISH COLONIALISTS FOLLOWING THE BRITISH MODEL. DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT BRITAIN WAS NOW FACING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF ITS OWN LABOUR LAWS.

-- '71:£ 85 2-3 MOST LIKELY THAT THE LABOUR LAWS THAT MALAYSIA HAD COPIED FROM BRITAIN WOULD HAVE MORE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE COUNTRY WHICH HAD JUST ENTERED THE ERA OF INDUSTRIALISATION. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CONTINUED ROLE OF THE EMPLOYERS IN CREATING INDUSTRIAL HARMONY BY NOT USING THE POWER OF +LOCK OUT+ IRRESPONSIBLY.

THE GOVERNMENT, ON ITS PART WOULD TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS DID NOT ABUSE THE EXISTING LABOUR LAWS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1210/SZ

UMNO-LABOUR 4 KUALA LUMPUR

IN TABLING THE RESOLUTION, UMNO YOUTH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HAJI IKHWAN NASIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD STRIVE TO INTRODUCE NEW LABOUR LAWS IN LINE WITH THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY.

HE SAID EMPLOYERS SHOULD RAISE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND PROVIDE THEM WITH FAIR WAGES.

HE FELT THAT THE EXISTING LABOUR LEGISLATIONS WERE STILL WEAK AND SHOULD BE STREAMLINED AND IMPROVED.

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON THE LABOUR LAWS IN THE INTEREST OF THE LABOUR GROUP AND THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THE INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS ORDINANCE PROVIDED THE MINISTRY WITH LIMITED POWERS IN DEALING WITH INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS DEMONSTRATED DURING THE MAS-AEU DISPUTE WHERE THE LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTRY WAS FOUND TO BE SLOW IN RESOLVING THE CRISIS. — BERNAMA 1220/SZ

UMNO-LABOUR 5 KUALA LUMPUR

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HAJI IKHWAN SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE ALERT AGAINST UNION LEADERS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN POLITICS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN THE OPPOSITION PARTIES.

THESE POLITICIANS HAD MADE USE OF THE UNIONS FOR THEIR POLITICAL STRUGGLE AIMED AT TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT.

THERE WERE ALSO UNION LEADERS WHO ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT AND TARNISH ITS IMAGE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES.

+THESE PEOPLE NOT ONLY TRY TO SMEAR THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE AT HOME BUT ALSO ABROAD AND THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADOPT A STERN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THEM,+ HE SAID. — BERNAMA MORE 1230/SZ

UMNO-LABOUR 6 KUALA LUMPUR

IN SUPPORTING THE RESOLUTION, ENCIK YUSUF LATIFF OF THE JELUTONG DIVISION SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO BAN STRIKES IN THE INTEREST OF SECURITY AND INDUSTRIAL HARMONY.

THE LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTRY SHOULD ALSO LOOK INTO THE PERCENTAGE OF BUMIPUTRA EXECUTIVES IN LOCAL FIRMS.

ENCIK YUSUF SAID THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT ENCOURAGE LOCAL TRADE UNIONS TO SEEK AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS.

THIS WOULD PREVENT LOCAL TRADE UNIONS FROM HAVING TO TAKE DIRECTIVES FROM INTERNATIONAL BODIES. — BERNAMA MORE 1240/SZ

UMNO-LABOUR 7 KUALA LUMPUR

WANITA UMNO DELEGATE PUAN RAHMAN OTHMAN SUGGESTED THAT ALL EXISTING LABOUR LAWS BE REVIEWED TO ENSURE THAT THEY FULFILLED THE NATION'S NEEDS.

SHE SAID THAT TRADE UNIONS, DISSATISFIED WITH THE AMENDMENTS MADE SO FAR TO THE LAWS, WERE TRYING TO RAISE ISSUES THAT COULD CAUSE DISSATISFACTION AMONG WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL UNIONS HAD ALLOWED THE LATTER TO EXPLOIT DISPUTES BETWEEN WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS, SUCH AS THE MAS-AEU DISPUTE, SHE SAID.

PUAN RAHMAN PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACT AGAINST REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL UNIONS WHO CONDEMNED THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ON LABOUR.

SHE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT PROVISIONS BE INCLUDED IN LABOUR LAWS PREVENTING THOSE ACTIVE IN TRADE UNIONS FROM CONTESTING IN THE ELECTIONS. — BERNAMA MORE 1245/SZ

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NO17 (F)

UMNO-LABOUR 8 KUALA LUMPUR

SELANGOR DELEGATE ENCIK TARIKH MOHAMED JUNED SUGGESTED THAT PRIVATE COMPANIES ALLOW THEIR WORKERS TO BUY SHARES IN THE COMPANIES TO CREATE IN THEM A SENSE OF BELONGING.

HE ALLEGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BOWED TO PRESSURE FROM OVERSEAS IN RELEASING MEMBERS OF TRADE UNIONS DETAINED DURING THE MAS-AEU DISPUTE.

THE DELEGATE WANTED A REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF STATUTORY AND PRIVATE BODIES. HE WANTED AN UMNO MEMBER TO BE PLACED ON THE BOARDS TO OBSERVE THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BODIES. — BERNAMA 1255/SZ