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KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 21 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT WARNED TODAY IT WILL NOT HESITATE TO COME DOWN HEAVILY ON EMPLOYERS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR WORKERS UNDER THE AMENDED LABOUR LAWS.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER (DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD,) WHO ISSUED THE WARNING, SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY ACTION BY EMPLOYERS WHO MIGHT CONSIDER THE RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE LABOUR LAWS AS FAVOURING THEM.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AT THE RMAF BASE HERE BEFORE LEAVING FOR SINGAPORE TO ATTEND THE ASEAN ECONOMIC MINISTERS'S MEETING. HE IS ALSO THE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THERE MUST ALWAYS BE FAIR TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES BY EMPLOYERS.

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACT AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO WERE UNFAIR OR UNWILLING TO WORK WITHIN THE LAW IN RESPECT OF THEIR WORKERS RIGHTS, FOR EXAMPLE, NEGOTIATIONS ON TERMS OF SERVICE, HE SAID.

— BERNAMA MORE 1812/A1

MAHATHIR-WARNING 2 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE EXPECT INDUSTRIAL PEACE IN THE COUNTRY AND INDUSTRIAL PEACE MEANS A TWO-WAY THING: WE EXPECT EMPLOYERS' COOPERATION AS MUCH AS THE WORKERS' COOPERATION, + HE SAID.

+IN THIS REGARD, THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANYONE FOUND TO BE UNFAIR TO ANY PARTY.

+THIS IS A WARNING FROM THE GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL NOT TOLERATE ANY INEQUITABLE ACTION BY ANYONE.

+WE CONSIDER OURSELVES THE GUARDIAN OF FAIR DEALING AND JUSTICE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AND WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY.

+I HOPE NO ONE WILL SAY LATER THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN FOREWARNED. +

— BERNAMA MORE 1815/A1

MAHATHIR-WARNING 3 KUALA LUMPUR

MEANWHILE, LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTER DATUK RICHARD HO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN MADE AWARE RECENTLY OF ANXIETIES THAT WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE AMENDMENTS, SOME EMPLOYERS MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM TO VICTIMISE THEIR WORKERS.

+THERE IS REALLY NOTHING IN THE AMENDMENTS WHICH WOULD GIVE ROOM FOR SUCH ABUSE, OR PROTECT SUCH ABUSE WHERE IT SHOULD OCCUR, + HE SAID IN A STATEMENT.

HE BELIEVED EMPLOYERS WOULD NOT BE SO INSENSITIVE AS TO INSULT THE LAW AND THEIR WORKERS IN THAT WAY.

HE PROMISED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ALERT AND TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTIONS WHEREVER NECESSARY AS IN THE PAST.

ON THE MTUC'S CANCELLATION OF ITS NATIONWIDE PICKET SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE CONGRESS' DECISION AS A WELCOME MOVE. — BERNAMA MORE 1822/A1

MAHATHIR-WARNING 4 KUALA LUMPUR

+WE, AND I AM SURE THE PEOPLE TOO, ARE HAPPY THAT REASON HAS PREVAILED OVER EMOTION, AND THAT THE CONGRESS WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS PROPER ROLE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC AND NATIONAL INTEREST, + HE SAID.

DATUK HO REMINDED THOSE DISSATISFIED WITH THE AMENDMENTS TO RECOGNISE THE FACT THAT THE AMENDMENTS HAD BEEN PASSED BY A PARLIAMENT DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE.

HE REITERATED DATUK HUSSEIN ONM'S CALL TO THE MTUC IN HIS DIALOGUE WITH THE CONGRESS THAT THE AMENDMENTS BE GIVEN THE TEST OF TIME.

+IF IN THE COURSE OF THEIR IMPLEMENTATION THEY ARE FOUND TO BE FAULTY, UNJUST, OR HARSH, THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO REVIEW THEM, + HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1825/A1