

NO22 (F)
MAHATHIR-UNIONS

30 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 2, (BERNAMA) — DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ADVISED TRADE UNION LEADERS TO RESORT TO NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN THREATS IN PURSUING DEMANDS FOR PAY INCREASES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE MANagements.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID UNION LEADERS SHOULD NOT GO AROUND THREATENING THE PUBLIC AND THE COUNTRY ABOUT WORK STOPPAGES TO BACK THEIR DEMANDS.

REFERRING TO THE TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION'S LATEST DEMAND FOR A \$120 BASIC WAGE INCREASE FOR ALL MEMBERS, HE SAID SUCH HIGH DEMANDS COULD CONTRIBUTE TO INFLATION IN THE COUNTRY.

HE TOLD THE UNION LEADERS THAT IF NEGOTIATIONS FAILED, THEY SHOULD GET THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LABOUR AND MANPOWER MINISTRY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

HE WAS SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING THE ONE-DAY AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIAN SEMINAR AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE HERE.

ON BUS OPERATORS' APPEALS TO HAVE THE NEW FARE STRUCTURE REVIEWED, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO STUDY THEIR REPRESENTATION. —BERNAMA MORE 1300/MM

MAHATHIR-UNION KUALA LUMPUR

BUT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ACCEDE TO IT ONLY IF +THERE WAS A CASE FOR IT.+

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR REMINDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD A RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO THE OPERATORS BUT ALSO TO THE PUBLIC.

EARLIER, IN OPENING THE SEMINAR, DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE FUNCTION WOULD GIVE DELEGATES FROM ABROAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE WORKING OF DEMOCRACY IN MALAYSIA.

+IT WOULD GIVE PARTICIPANTS A FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF HOW DEMOCRACY WORKS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND I HOPE IT WOULD

CONTRIBUTE TO A GREATER UNDERSTANDING AMONG PARLIAMENTARIANS FROM THE VARIOUS COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES,+ HE ADDED.

TWENTY-SIX DELEGATES FROM COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES IN THE AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION ATTENDED THE SEMINAR.

MALAYSIA WAS REPRESENTED BY A THREE-MEMBER DELEGATION COMPRISING SENATOR ABDUL RAZAK ABU SAMAH AND STATE ASSEMBLYMEN RAMLI BIN NGAH TALIB (PERAK) AND DR. ONG HEAN TEE (PENANG).

—BERNAMA 1300/MM