

N114 (F)  
MAHATHIR - UNION  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 28 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID TODAY WORKERS UNIONS, BOTH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS, MUST EXERCISE CAUTION IN TAKING ANY ACTION REGARDING THEIR CLAIMS FOR BETTER BENEFITS.

THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT INDUSTRIAL PEACE WAS VITAL FOR THE COUNTRY'S CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS.

OPENING THE 16TH BIENNIAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE OF THE MALAYAN TECHNICAL SERVICES UNION (MTSU) HERE, HE REMINDED THE WORKERS UNIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO MAKE MALAYSIA A DEVELOPED NATION.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD THIS OBJECTIVE NOT BECAUSE IT OF ITS PRIDE IN WANTING MALAYSIA TO BE A DEVELOPED AND PROSPEROUS COUNTRY BUT BECAUSE IT REALISED THAT DEVELOPMENT WOULD BRING MORE BENEFITS TO THE PEOPLE.

+THIS IS THE REASON THE GOVERNMENT MADE MANY CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY TO ENSURE THAT ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES MORE HARDER AND WITH MORE DETERMINATION.+

HE SAID THE CHANGES WERE NOT AIMED AT OPPRESSING THE STAFF BUT AT ENSURING THAT THE COUNTRY ACHIEVED EVEN GREATER PROGRESS.

---BERNAMA MORE 2115/AH

N125 (F)  
MAHATHIR - UNION 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REMINDED WORKERS UNIONS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THAT NOT ALL CLAIMS COULD BE MET.

+THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT GIVE ALL THAT IS ASKED AND THAT IS WHY SOMETIMES THE GOVERNMENT IS FORCED TO GIVE A NEGATIVE REPLY,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT WHEN NEGATIVE DECISIONS WERE HANDED DOWN, THE WORKERS UNIONS FOUND IT HARD TO ACCEPT THEM.

REGARIBNG CLAIMS BY THE CONGRESS OF UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICES (CUEPACS) FOR HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FROM DIVISION +A+ AND BELOW, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD STUDIED THEM BUT HAD NOT YET FOUND A WAY TO RESOLVE THEM.

+THE PROBLEM IS NOT WHETHER TO PAY OR NOT BUT THE CONSEQUENCES,+ HE ADDED.

EARLIER, HE SAID THAT ANY CLAIM FOR SALARY INCREASES MUST BE MADE BASED ON GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY.--BERNAMA MORE 2205/AH

N126 (F)  
MAHATHIR - UNION 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT SALARY INCREASES IN A WEAK OR AN STAGNANT ECONOMIC SITUATION WOULD BE MEANINGLESS BECAUSE IN THE CURRENT INFLATIONARY SITUATION THIS WOULD ONLY INCREASE THE COST OF LIVING.

DATUK SERI DR.MAHATHIR FELT THAT TO ACHIEVE A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE, EVERYONE MUST STRIVE TO ENSURE A MORE RAPID GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY BECAUSE IT WAS ONLY WITH GREATER ECONOMIC GROWTH THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD ENJOY THE BENEFITS.

+HOWEVER, IF THE GROWTH WAS CURTAILED, THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES,+ HE ADDED.

--BERNAMA MORE 2207/AH

N127 (F)  
MAHATHIR - UNION 4 KUALA LUMPUR

THE UNION'S PRESIDENT, ENCIK P.VAMATHEVAN, SAID MTSU FULLY SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND TIGHTEN DISCIPLINE AMONG CIVIL SERVANTS.

HE ADDED THAT THE UNION WAS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ITS EFFORTS TO PROVIDE A CLEAN AND EFFUCIENT PUBLIC SERVICE.

HE SUGGESTED THAT HEADS OF DEPARTMENT TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO KEEP THEIR STAFF INFORMED ABOUT THE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

ENCIK VAMATHEVAN SAID IT WAS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS TO CATEGORICALLY SPELL OUT THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF EACH STAFF UNDER HIS SUPERVISION.

+THUS THERE WOULD BE NO OVERLAPPING OF FUNCTIONS AND FRICTION BETWEEN STAFF,+ HE ADDED.

THE UNION'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, ENCIK A.RAGUNATHAN URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO AMEND THE LABOUR LAWS WHICH HE SAID WERE DETRIMENTAL TO CIVIL SERVANTS.

--BERNAMA 2212/AH