

MAHATHIR - UNIFORMS

BM

JOHOR BAHRU, MARCH 5 (BERNAMA) -- (DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE FELT THAT IT WOULD BE GOOD FOR THE COUNTRY IF ALL THE WORKERS WERE TO DON A COMMON UNIFORMS DURING WORKING HOURS, THUS ELIMINATING ANY DIFFERENCE AMONG THEM.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE WORKERS - FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL MANAGERS DOWN TO THE OFFICE BOYS - SHOULD WEAR COMMON UNIFORMS TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE WORKERS.

"IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN, ALL WORKERS FROM THE CHAIRMAN DOWN TO THE WORKERS IN THE PRODUCTION LINE OF A FIRM, WEAR A COMMON UNIFORMS," HE ADDED WHEN HE OPENED A THREE-DAY COURSE ON LABOUR ORGANIZED BY THE UMNO BUREAU ON LABOUR AND MANPOWER.

"THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT I WANT TO SEE ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY WEARING A COMMON ATTIRE LIKE IN COMMUNIST CHINA," HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO WAS WEARING A BLUE CABINET UNIFORM HIMSELF, SAID THE UNIFORMS WAS INTRODUCED AMONG THE CABINET MINISTERS TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE ALSO WORKERS. -- MORE 1830/MB  
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"WE WEAR THEM NOT TO DIFFERENTIATE OURSELVES FROM THE OTHERS BUT AS PROOF THAT WE ARE ALSO WORKERS," HE ADDED.

THE CABINET UNIFORMS OF A DARK BLUE BUSH JACKET AND PANTS WERE FIRST WORN BY THE MINISTERS, DEPUTY MINISTERS AND PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES DURING THE LAST NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO FELT THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WORKERS AND THE "BOSSSES" OR THE MANAGEMENT FOR ALL WERE WORKERS.

"TO ME, THE PRIME MINISTER, THE MINISTERS OR WHOEVER, ARE WORKERS," HE ADDED.

HE HOPED THAT THE IDENTIFICATION OF A WORKER SHOULD NOT BE CONFINED TO A COMMON UNIFORMS BUT SHOULD ALSO EXTEND TO THE DAILY WORK.

IT WAS A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE AMONG DIRECTORS OF A COMPANY IN THE COUNTRY TO INSIST ON A SEPARATE AND AIR-CONDITIONED ROOM, TO DIFFERENTIATE THEM FROM THEIR WORKERS. -- MORE 1835/MB

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"ALL WORKERS SHOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK AND THEY MUST REGARD THEMSELVES AS WORKERS. THIS MEANS IF THAT PERSON IS THE DIRECTOR OF A COMPANY, HE MUST COME DOWN TO THE PRODUCTION FLOOR OR THE SHOP FLOOR, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER HE IS A HOLDER OF MBA DEGREE FROM HARVARD," HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THOSE WHO INTENDED TO BECOME DIRECTORS SHOULD KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE WORKERS, BEFORE THEY COULD MANAGE THESE WORKERS.

HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE COUNTRY WOULD PROGRESS MORE RAPIDLY AND THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES ENSURED, IF THIS PRACTICE WAS ADOPTED. -- BERNAMA 1840/MB