

MAHATHIR - UNIONS
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JOHOR BAHRU, MARCH 5 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT THE PROPOSED IN-HOUSE UNIONS WOULD BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF WORKERS MORE EFFECTIVELY BECAUSE THEY COULD SUBMIT THEIR REQUESTS DIRECTLY TO THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYERS.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THIS WOULD GIVE THE WORKERS EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THEIR COMPANIES BY WORKING HARDER SO THAT THE PROFITS DERIVED COULD BE CHANNELLED TO THEM.

THEY COULD ALSO TAKE PART IN DETERMINING THE COMPANIES' PROGRESS BY GIVING SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WHEN HE OPENED A THREE-DAY SEMINAR ON LABOUR ORGANIZED BY UMNO MALAYSIA LABOUR BUREAU AT THE GOLF CLUB, NEAR HERE. -- MORE 1455/MK

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HE SAID THAT WITH THE PROFITS, WORKERS COULD NEGOTIATE FOR HIGHER WAGES.

HE ADDED THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN WORKERS' UNION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH IN-HOUSE UNIONS WOULD NOT ONLY BENEFIT THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO THE PEOPLE IN ENSURING THE SUCCESS OF THE PROPOSED MALAYSIA INCORPORATED.

"WE WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE A COMPANY LOSING BECAUSE THIS WOULD AFFECT THE WORKERS WHO WOULD BE JOBLESS, THE MANAGEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO INVEST, AND THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ENJOY DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT COULD NOT COLLECT TAXES FROM THE PROFITS OF COMPANIES," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT EXISTING UNIONS AND NATIONAL UNIONS WHO COPIED THE WEST WERE SET UP ACCORDING TO THE INDUSTRIES THEY REPRESENTED. FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE IN METALWORKS, HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER ONE UNION WITHOUT TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR PLACE OR WORK, HE ADDED. -- MORE 1530/MB

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"THE SETTING-UP OF IN-HOUSE UNIONS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS A MEANS OF DISSOLVING EXISTING WORKERS' UNIONS. IT IS TO PROTECT THE WORKERS' INTERESTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITHOUT ANY UNION YET," HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR LATER APPEALED LOCAL WORKERS TO EMULATE THE EXAMPLE OF THEIR JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS WHO PREFERRED JOINING IN-HOUSE UNIONS.

HE SAID THAT WORKERS OF MATSUSHITA OR HONDA, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE PLACED UNDER ONE UNION REGARDLESS WHICH DIVISIONS THEY WORKED IN AND THEY ENJOYED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND A SIX-MONTH BONUS A YEAR.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THAT THROUGH SUCH IN-HOUSE UNIONS, JAPANESE FIRMS HAD ACHIEVED SUCH PROGRESS THAT THEIR PRODUCTIVITY HAD OVERTAKEN THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES WITH UNIONS BASED ON THE OLD SYSTEM. -- MORE 1600/MB

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THE JAPANESE WORKERS HAD A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS THAT THEY EVEN GAVE SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO REMINDED WORKERS NOT TO BE EASILY INFLUENCED BY WESTERN WORKERS WHO WERE LAZY AND TOOK TOO MUCH TIME OFF TO REST AND WHO HAD THE ATTITUDE THAT INDUSTRIOUS WORKERS WOULD BE EASILY EXPLOITED BY THE MANAGEMENT.

+WE MUST REMEMBER THAT SUCH ALL ADVICE WAS GIVEN NOT FOR THE LOVE OF THE WORKERS BUT BECAUSE THEY DO NOT WISH TO SEE US PROGRESS AND TO SEE A PEACEFUL INDUSTRIAL ATMOSPHERE SO THAT WE COULD COMPETE WITH THEM,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE 1605/MK

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE INTENTION OF THE BRITISH IN SENDING SPECIAL OFFICERS AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS NOT TO RESTRUCTURE OR ADVISE THE WORKERS' UNIONS THEN, AS CLAIMED, BUT TO INCITE THEM NOT TO WORK HARD SO THAT THEY COULD CONTROL THE UNION MEMBERS.

HE SAID THAT WORKERS SHOULD GUARD AGAINST THE WESTERN POWERS WHO STILL WANTED TO EXTEND THEIR RULE EVENTHOUGH THE COUNTRY HAD ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE.

THE WORKERS MUST ALSO NOT EMULATE THE EXAMPLE OF BRITISH WORKERS WHO WERE CONSTANTLY AT LOGGERHEAD WITH THEIR MANAGEMENT AND +BECAUSE OF THEIR ATTITUDE OF WE ARE WORKERS AND YOU ARE THE MANAGEMENT,+ HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1609/MK