

PM: GOVT WON'T OPPRESS WORKERS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the Government does not intend to oppress the workers or disregard trade unions.

The Prime Minister said that in today's modern society, workers and employers should regard each other as partners to overcome common problems.

Workers and employers had regarded each other as enemies and all their actions were based on this enmity, he said at the opening of the 16th triennial Cuepacs convention.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that if the two parties regarded themselves as partners, then the Government would need to change its attitude, laws and actions against the workers and employers.

He said that assumptions that employers would renege workers when they were in debt and that workers would leave a place of employment for another on the promise of better salaries were not true.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that this was one of the

\$30m saved yearly

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government will save about \$30.8 million annually following its decision to stop the yearly \$200,000 allocation to the 154 Members of Parliament.

The Prime Minister told reporters that the decision was made as part of the nation's cutback on expenditures.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, explained that the allocations were given to the various district offices and not the MPs.

The money was disbursed according to the wishes of the rakyat as expressed through their MPs, he said. — Bernama

reasons why the Government suggested the formation of in-house unions instead of trade unions.

He said that under the in-house union concept, workers would not be classified under their respective trades. All workers in a company would be under one union.

He said that this would ensure that employers regard them as friends and realise the role of the workers in ensuring the success of the company.

"The employers also need not negotiate with outsiders from general

trade unions. The negotiations can be done within the family," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that if the in-house union concept was implemented along with life-time employment and bonus on profits, employers, workers and their unions would not act irresponsibly.

He said, however, that this did not mean that the in-house union concept was a "sure success" formula because its effectiveness would be determined by the participants.

He said that the chances of this concept succeeding was better than the "inner-

sonal" trade union system which was set up on the assumption that workers and employers were enemies.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the country viewed all industrial actions as not appropriate and non-profitable.

"Losses resulting from strikes and other forms of industrial action would reduce Government's income and thus its contribution to the people," he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was later presented with a gold medal in recognition of his services to the cause of the workers.

The other recipients were outgoing Cuepacs president T. Narendran, vice-president Theresa Choong and deputy secretary-general Ilias Wan Chik.

Also present at the ceremony were Labour Minister Datuk Mak Hon Kam, his deputy, Datuk Zakaria Haji Abdul Rahman, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Mr S. Subramaniam and Deputy Energy, Posts and Telecommunications Ministry Datuk Suhaimi Haji Kamaruddin.