

MAHATHI R-UNIONS
BM

84 (P)
PASIR GUDANG, APRIL 21 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROPOSED THE SETTING UP OF HOUSE UNIONS FOR THE LONG-TERM BENEFIT OF WORKERS AND NOT FOR THE SAKE OF EMPLOYERS.

HE SAID THAT MANY GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS WERE FOR LONG-TERM GAINS, AND ADDED THAT PEOPLE SHOULD REALISE THAT IMMEDIATE BENEFITS DID NOT LAST AND COULD PROVE, TO BE A CURSE.

PROJECTS WHICH BRING GREATER AND LASTING BENEFITS REQUIRE SACRIFICES IN THE INITIAL STAGES, HE SAID WHEN OPENING A TIN-PLATING FACTORY, PERSTIMA, HERE.

FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE WHO WORK IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSING THEIR SPM EXAMINATION EARNED A SALARY EARLIER THAN THEIR CONTEMPORARIES WHO ENTERED UNIVERSITIES.

HOWEVER, UNIVERSITY GRADUATES EARNED MORE THAN SPM-HOLDERS, HE ADDED.

-- MORE 2024/SL

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THE SETTING UP OF HOUSE UNION TOO HELD THE PROMISE OF LONG-TERM BENEFITS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS TRUE THAT BIG UNIONS COULD MAKE BIGGER DEMANDS FOR FACTORY WORKERS, "MUST NOT FORGET THAT JOB OPPORTUNITIES THE FACTORIES ARE THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE."

"WORKERS SHOULD NOT BURN THE BRIDGE AFTER THEY HAVE COROSSED THE RIVER BECAUSE THERE ARE STILL MANY OTHERS WHO WANT TO CORSS THE RIVER," HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROMOTING THE HOUSE UNION CONCEPT BECAUSE THE COMPANIES IN AN INDUSTRIES WERE NOT ALL BIG OR FINANCIALLY STRONG.

IF DEMANDS WERE MADE THAT ALL WORKERS IN A PARTICULAR TRADE BE PAID THE SAME AMOUNT, THE SMALLER COMPANIES WOULD HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN AND MANY WOULD LOSE THEIR JOBS, HE ADDED. -- MORE 2024/SL

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HE SAID 'THE PEOPLE SHOULD NOT BE INFLUENCED BY FOREIGNERS WHO ADVOCATED THAT WHATEVER WAS PRACTISED IN ADVANCED COUNTRIES SHOULD BE EMULATED BY DEVELOPING NATIONS.

"WE MUST REALISE THAT REALISE THAT WE DO NOT HAVE THE COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE OF THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES," HE SAID.

IF MALAYSIAN INDUSTRIES FAILED, THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES COULD CONTINUE TO SELL THEIR GOODS TO MALAYSIA AND AT INCREASED PRICES, HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA 2110/II