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MAHATHIR-UNIONS
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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 26 (BERNAMA) -- MALAYSIA WILL NEVER PROGRESS IF THERE IS FREQUENT TENSION IN THE COUNTRY CAUSED BY DISPUTES BETWEEN TRADE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT BECAUSE MALAYSIA WAS A DEVELOPING NATION, HARMONIOUS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS MUST BE MAINTAINED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS TO THE COUNTRY.

MORE FOREIGN INVESTMENTS WOULD INCREASE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND HELP OVERCOME THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN THE COUNTRY, HE SAID AT A CEREMONY TO PAY TRIBUTE TO CUEPACS' FIRST ELECTED PRESIDENT, THE LATE V.E. JESUDOSS HERE.

+INCREASING UNEMPLOYMENT AND SHORTAGE OF JOBS WILL NOT ENABLE TRADE UNIONS TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT HAVE MANY MEMBERS (IN SUCH A SITUATION),+ HE SAID.

HE SAID WORKERS COULD ONLY ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND LEAD A COMFORTABLE LIFE IF THE COUNTRY WAS PEACEFUL, PROGRESSIVE AND RICH, ADDING THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS WAS NECESSARY TO SPEED UP THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH. -- MORE
2013MST 26 09 87

B E715 AAE
MAHATHIR-UNIONS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE NOTED THAT UNIONS IN THE COUNTRY WERE MODERATE AND NOT EXTREME AND THAT THE UNION LEADERS WERE DEDICATED IN CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CONSIDERED TRADE UNION LEADERS IN THE COUNTRY MORE RATIONAL, CALM AND PATIENT THAN THOSE IN SOME OTHER NATIONS, SAYING MALAYSIAN UNION LEADERS PREFERRED TABLE DISCUSSIONS TO EXTREME FORMS OF ACTION IN CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS.

+MALAYSIA HAS NOT SEEN VIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS LIKE THOSE STAGED IN SOME OTHER NATIONS BECAUSE THE UNIONS PREFER TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS EVEN THOUGH THIS MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME OR EVEN END UP IN FAILURE,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THE UNION LEADERS' PATIENCE IN FIGHTING FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS WAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE APPRECIATED BY THE GOVERNMENT BECAUSE THIS HELPED CREATE A HEALTHY ECONOMIC ATMOSPHERE IN THE NATION.

A CALM AND PATIENT ATTITUDE AND PREFERENCE TO RESOLVING DISPUTES THROUGH DISCUSSION WOULD HELP MAINTAIN PEACE AND SPEED UP DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY AND THUS BENEFIT ALL THE PEOPLE, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID. -- MORE
2017MST 26 09 87

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B E722 AAE
MAHATHIR-UNIONS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

ON THE LATE ENCIK JESUDOSS, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE CUEPACS FOUNDER MEMBER'S LEADERSHIP SHOULD SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO ALL LEADERS OF ORGANISATIONS, INCLUDING POLITICAL LEADERS.

HE DESCRIBED ENCIK JESUDOSS AS +A DEDICATED LEADER WITH GREAT LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND SINCERE SPIRIT IN CHAMPIONING THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT CIVIL SERVICE UNIONS MANAGED TO BE AFFILIATED UNDER CUEPACS, THANKS TO THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF ENCIK JESUDOSS.

HE SAID ENCIK JESUDOSS REMAINED AN INSPIRATION TO OTHER UNION LEADERS AND PROVIDED THEM WITH ADVICE AFTER HIS RETIREMENT.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR LATER OPENED A HALL NAMED AFTER ENCIK JESUDOSS IN TRIBUTE TO HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORKERS' UNION MOVEMENT IN THE COUNTRY. -- BERNAMA
2035MST 26 09 87