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PM: Local unionists want GSP removed

PENANG, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today expressed regret that local trade union leaders are agitating for the withdrawal of Malaysia's Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) privileges.

He said while the Government was attracting more investment and trying to create more jobs and higher salaries, the action would discourage investments.

This, the Prime Minister said, would mean more unemployment and lower pay for workers.

He said this at a Press conference after a meeting with the State Umno Liaison Committee.

He said the union leaders, who are also politicians, wanted the GSP to be removed for their own political ends.

"I am not surprised that foreigners are trying to get Ma-

laysia's GSP privileges withdrawn as our industries are very competitive.

"If our industries are eliminated, the investments will return to their countries so that they (the foreigners) would benefit.

"They do that not out of concern for our workers, but with the intention of attracting the investment back to their countries with higher pay for their

workers, and then demanding high prices from us."

The latest attempt on Malaysia's GSP privileges comes from the Washington-based International Labour Rights Education and Research Fund which is filing petitions against the Malaysian Government and the electronics sector.