

# In-house unions preferred: PM

By AHIRUDIN ATTAN

11 JUL 1990

(P)

THE Government's policy of disallowing an industry-based union in electronics does not apply to other industries which are still union-free. The Government, however, will prefer them to form in-house unions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in Malacca yesterday that workers in other industries are free to choose whether to form in-house unions or to remain union-free.

"No, it does not mean that the Gov-

ernment will reject proposals to form national unions for these industries. But our policy is to encourage them to form in-house unions," he added.

He said the Government does not allow the formation of a national electronics workers union because the industry is "sensitive" and the workforce large. "Whoever has control over this national union, which employs about 130,000 workers, will become too powerful. This may be used to make excessive demands

that may drive away the companies," he told reporters after a day-long visit to Kuala Sungai Baru, some 50 km north of the state capital, yesterday.

As in his earlier speeches in Johor, Selangor and Pahang, in his address to the people of Kampung Pantai yesterday, the Government's preference for in-house unions in the electronics industry was fully emphasised.

The Prime Minister said being in-

Cont'd Back Page, Col. 4

## Mahathir: In-house unions BT 11 JUL 1990 preferred

### ■ FROM PAGE ONE

dustry-wide, a national union will not take into account the inability of some companies within the industry to cope with their demands whereas in in-house unions, the workers of the company itself represent the union and are, therefore, aware of what the company can or cannot afford.

He said Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) leaders are indifferent to the difficulties faced by the smaller companies in coping with national unions' demands because they do not hold jobs in these companies and therefore are not subject to the adverse implications of these demands on the workers and the companies.

Earlier, in a closed-door session with Umno state members and leaders, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir underscored the importance of coordination and organisation to complement unity within the party. Unity per se does not guarantee victory in the general elections. The party machinery, he said, needs to be well-coordinated and organised to carry out the various strategies efficiently and effectively.

He told reporters that the same message was also conveyed to state Umno divisional leaders at an earlier closed-door session.

In a message to the Malays to avoid a further split at all costs, he made references to the Malaccan history during the time when a split among the Malays turned some of them into traitors and, ultimately, led to the downfall of the Malaccan Empire to the Portugese.

Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik said the bridge will enable more coordinated development in the area. Others accompanying him on the trip included Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat and Deputy Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Kok Wee Kiat.