

PM expresses his gratitude to US Govt

SEREMBAN, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today expressed his gratitude to the US Government for rejecting the three petitions seeking to remove Malaysia's privileges under the Generalised System of Preference.

He said the move showed that the US Government had accepted Malaysia's explanation that workers rights had not been interfered with.

"The main complaint against us was that we were exploiting our workers. But our people there (in the United States) explained the true situation.

"Even the American investors here helped us in explaining the true situation," the Prime Minister told newsmen after speaking at a Barisan Nasional gathering here.

Asked if the Government would be drawing up laws to stop local union leaders from exploiting the GSP issue again, he said the Government had no such plans.

"But we will inform the workers directly about the activities of certain (union) leaders.

"These leaders are actually politicians who have been able to smuggle themselves into the unions as leaders," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the workers were free to strike but they must consider the consequences before doing so. He then reminded the workers about certain developed countries which suffered at the hands of striking workers.