

MAHATHIR-STRIKES R'R'R'
BM

KANGAR, AUG 20 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS ADVISED WORKERS TO IGNORE UNION LEADERS WHO INCITE THEM TO STAGE STRIKE TO BACK CLAIMS FOR BETTER WAGES. RESORTING TO STRIKES OR WORKING-TO-RULE WAS NOT A PROPER WAY TO GET BETTER PAY, HE SAID.

A BETTER APPROACH WOULD BE FOR THEM TO COOPERATE WITH AND BE LOYAL TO THE EMPLOYER AND IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY, HE SAID.

A PROFIT-MAKING COMPANY WOULD RAISE WORKERS' WAGES AND GIVE THEM BONUS, SAID THE PRIME MINISTER WHEN ADDRESSING WORKERS OF PERLIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION-OWNED COMPANIES IN JEJAWI HERE. UNREASONABLE DEMANDS FOR WAGE INCREASE AND INDUSTRIAL ACTION COULD ONLY PARALYSE INDUSTRIES AND RESULT IN CLOSURE OF FACTORIES HE SAID.

+WHEN FACTORIES CLOSE DOWN, UNION LEADERS ARE NOT AROUND TO DEFEND THE WORKERS WHO ARE AT A DISADVANTAGE AND JOBLESS,+ HE SAID.-- MORE

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MAHATHIR-STRIKES 2 KANGAR R'R'R'

THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT HE REGRETTED THE ATTITUDE OF UNION LEADERS NAMELY MTUC PRESIDENT ZAINAL RAMPAK AND SECRETARY-GENERAL V. DAVID IN BACKING PETITIONS TO HAVE UNITED STATES' GSP PRIVILEGES WITHDRAWN FROM MALAYSIA.

THEY SHOULD HAVE IN FACT PETITIONED FOR INCREASED QUOTA OF MALAYSIAN GOODS FOR THE US SO THAT MORE FACTORIES COULD BE SET UP AND CREATE MORE JOBS INSTEAD OF ASKING FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE GSP, HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE COULD ONLY PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TO 860,000 PEOPLE WHEREAS SEVEN MILLION MORE NEEDED JOBS TOO WHICH IT HOPED TO CREATE THROUGH PRIVATISATION AND INDUSTRIALISATION INCENTIVES.

MALAYSIAN WORKERS SHOULD LEARN FROM WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN AUSTRALIA A RICH NATION ONCE BUT NOW FACING ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES BECAUSE DEMANDS FOR HIGH WAGES BY ITS LABOUR PROMPTED BANKS TO CHARGE A 20 PER CENT INTEREST RATE COMPARED TO ONLY SEVEN PER CENT IN MALAYSIA HE SAID.

HE URGED MALAYSIAN WORKERS TO BE REASONABLE WHEN DEMANDING FOR BETTER PAY AND SET UP IN-HOUSE UNIONS TO MAKE THEM MORE RESPONSIBLE TO THEIR FACTORIES.-- MORE

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MAHATHIR-STRIKES 3 KANGAR R'R'R'

EARLIER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, ACCOMPANIED BY MENTERI BESAR DR ABDUL HAMID PAWANTEH AND OTHER BARISAN NASIONAL LEADERS, VISITED THE DRAGON AND PHOENIX BHD GARMENT FACTORY IN JEJAWI.

MANAGING DIRECTOR CHENG WAI KEUNG TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE PLANT EMPLOYED 1,000 WORKERS AND EXPORTED GARMENTS WORTH \$12 MILLION ANNUALLY.

DRAGON AND PHOENIX INVESTED \$150 MILLION TO BUILD ALTOGETHER 10 FACTORIES NATIONWIDE EMPLOYING A TOTAL OF 7,000 WORKERS, HE SAID.--