

# PM: Higher output the best way to better wages

21 AUG 1990

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KANGAR, Mon. — Commitment to employers' profitability and consolidating industrial harmony can help ensure higher profits and remuneration, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said resorting to strikes in support of claims for higher wages was outdated and a move which could eventually result in losses for workers and employers.

Addressing a large gathering of factory workers from Jejawi industrial estate at the Dragon and Phoenix plant, Dr Mahathir said the Government's way of ensuring workers get higher income from their employers was by encouraging them to be more productive.

servants carried out their duties efficiently.

The Prime Minister said it was therefore important that government servants play their roles effectively to enable continued development in the country.

He outlined four factors which could bring about this progress:

- strong Government with sound track record in administration;
- skilled employees;
- peace and stability; and,
- the ability to make full use of the natural resources.

Dr Mahathir said the progress made by the nation is evident from the fact that Malaysia is considered fifth among 130 developing countries (behind South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore).

He explained to the gath-

The Prime Minister, who is on a one-day visit to Perlis, said it was evident that workers have now managed to get better wages through this peaceful way.

With more industries being opened and with the better profits brought about by the sound economic policies, employers are faced with the problem of getting workers to meet their needs.

They have resorted to pinching workers from other factories and paying them higher wages.

Dr Mahathir said the Government wanted the industrial peace between employers and employees to prevail while it went about attracting more investors to set up ventures to generate more jobs.

Present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yalk, Umno secretary-general Datuk Mohamad Rahmat, and Sarawak Barisan Nasional Youth chairman Datuk Celestine Ujang.

At a gathering of government employees in the State at Stadium Datuk Sheikh Ahmad, Dr Mahathir said the people will be closer to the Government if government

ering the rationale behind the Government's privatisation policy — to make agencies profitable ventures.

Citing Syarikat Telekom Malaysia Berhad as an example, Dr Mahathir said previously the Government had to pump in money to the agency to carry out its task.

"Now, STM has been able to make \$500 million profit a year and since it is at the moment a wholly-owned government company, it is now reaping the benefits of the profits together with the workers."

Similarly, he said, workers of the Port Kelang Container Terminal are earning more since its privatisation.

Encouraged by these success, the Government is gradually privatising several other agencies.

The Prime Minister told government servants in the State that they could make Perlis strong economically even though it is small.

One achievement by the State is that it now has \$150 million in its coffers — the result of sound financial management.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Dr Abdul Hamid Pawanteh was confident Perlis would be able to repay all its Federal Government debts within the shortest possible period.