

MLO must show proof of support

EST 25 AUG 1990

By Rarhid Yusof

ALOR STAR, Fri. — The Government will consider admitting the newly registered Malaysian Labour Organisation (MLO) into the National Labour Advisory Council if it can prove that it has the support of workers, ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir~~ Mohamad said today.

It is up to the workers whether they wanted the new labour centre to represent them, the Prime Minister said when responding to a question on the objection by the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) to the intended admission of the MLO to NLAC.

He said the Government was obligated to consider application from those who enjoyed workers' support.

He maintained it was not the prerogative of other unions or for that matter the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF).

"Others do not have a say on who should be admitted to the NLAC," he told reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Kedah.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir visited the \$580-million Universiti Utara Malaysia permanent campus in Sintok, near Changloon.

On the campus construction which is behind schedule, he said the delay had been expected.

However, he said it was a record of sorts for the contractors to have been able to build many of the facilities, including hostels and lecture halls, within 20 months.

The first batch of 1,400 freshmen will move into the campus on Sept 15, followed by the seniors.

Dr Mahathir said besides the \$580 million spent to build the campus, the Government would have to incur \$6,500 for each student a year while the students would only pay \$500.

He hoped the students would realise that the people's money was being spent on them and use the educational facilities wisely.

The university, he said, was specially set up to produce competent managers and they should therefore aim for academic excellence and be honest professionals.