

# Drop hostile

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# stand, says PM

By Rashid Bakar

KOTA BARU, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded trade unions that they no longer have to adopt a confrontational attitude towards employers to back claims as employers are willing to settle disputes amicably.

The Prime Minister said that in the past, unions within and outside the country used to adopt a hostile stand because employers refused to recognise them.

He said the Government re-

cognised the existence and role of the unions to help promote growth.

As partners in progress, unions should work with the Government and try to preserve industrial peace.

In this way the country would be able to attract investments, create more job opportunities and promote economic growth, he added.

He was addressing 1,000 Government officers and staff at the Balai Islam here. Also present were Menteri Besar Tan Sri

Haji Mohamed Yaacob and Cuepacs president Mohamed Abas.

Dr Mahathir said claims for higher wages could only be achieved through increased productivity.

The Prime Minister noted that the people were able to live happily because the country was run and managed by leaders' who were responsible and sensitive to the needs of the people.

He said Kelantan had seen a lot of development and progress since it came under the Barisan Nasional Government in 1978.