

# Better to negotiate, PM tells workers

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — ~~Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad called on workers today not to resort to industrial action as an easy way out but to negotiate their demands.~~

He said workers' claims should be made through consultations, and if that failed, they should resort to arbitration.

"The issuing of threats and tests to find out who is stronger is a primitive method and it would not be beneficial in the long run," he said when opening the 12th annual general meeting of the ~~Malaysia Airlines Employees Union (Maseu).~~

He said the Government's incentives for in-

&&en, depended not only on facilities and infrastructure but more importantly on political stability and industrial peace.

He said the Government wanted to attract investors as a means to create more job opportunities.

He said in a democratic country like Malaysia, where the various political parties depended on the votes of the people to win in the election, the Government could not ignore the interests of the workers.

He said that acting in fairness did not necessarily mean taking the side of workers. It also meant

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of employers and investors so that they could provide employment.

Dr Mahathir said the Government supported in-house unions because certain politicians, who controlled the national trade union or the trade union congress, had abused their powers and neglected the workers.

He also refuted claims that the Government intended to weaken the powers of the national trade union by encouraging in-house unions.

Dr Mahathir said these politicians were more interested in their own position than in the interests of the workers.

"They were willing to expose the electronic workers to unemployment by asking foreign countries to make our product uncompetitive just because they hated the Government," he said.

He said although in-house unions were not as strong as trade unions in making "threats" to the employers, it allowed the company's own workers to do the negotiation.

Dr Mahathir said MAS, as the national carrier, was not owned solely by its shareholders but also by the country and the rakyat.

He was confident that the management would not let its workers down.