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BE WARY OF FOREIGN TRADE UNIONS, SAYS PM

Mahathir - unions

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JITRA, Sept 14 (Bernama) -- Trade unions in Europe and the United States pretend to champion the cause of workers in Malaysia when they are actually intent on destroying the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He cautioned workers in the country to be wary of these unions and not to be fooled by them.

This was a tactic of the developed nations to check development of the production industry in Malaysia so that its goods would not be able to compete with theirs, he said when opening the Umno Kubang Pasu Division delegates meeting here.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Western countries had to resort to using their trade unions because they could no longer use colonial power.

+When in the past they did not care whether our workers received good wages or not, now they are really concerned for our workers, + he said. -- more

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Mahathir - unions (last) 2 Jitra

He said the unions incited local unions by alleging that Malaysian workers were exploited, received low wages and were denied medical benefits and maternity leave.

They also incited workers in the country to resort to strikes if employers did not meet their demands.

Unfortunately, some Malaysian union leaders were taken in by these unions without realising that they were bent on creating chaos which would result in higher prices for goods.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that following Malaysia's success in the production sector, the country was likely to become the leading producer of television sets and micro-chips in the world next year. -- Bernama