

PM to workers: Don't be misled

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MALACCA: The Prime Minister said unionists trying to form a national union for the 120,000 electronics industry workers are motivated by money and personal interests.

He said workers should realise that the people who were instigating them to form a union, and strike if necessary to get higher wages, had never made any efforts to create employment.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad added that unionists wanted to lead any industry that had many workers.

"If a union is set up to represent electronics industry workers, with each member paying \$1 sub-

scription a month, whoever leads it would be able to collect \$120,000 and use it for whatever purpose ... to travel here and there in style," he said.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the opening of the \$21 million *Graha Makmur* headquarters of the Malacca Municipal Council.

Dr Mahathir said union leaders were so ambitious that they even wanted to get Malaysia suspended from International Labour Organisation (ILO) conferences (see Page 4).

He said he was confident that Malaysian workers would not be easily misled by these quarters.

He said workers would not set up a union that would ruin Malaysia's investment climate.

"As long as the investment climate is good, there will be ample employment opportunities. When there are more job opportunities than the number of workers, wages will rise," he added.

Dr Mahathir said electronics factory workers should pause and ask themselves who was helping them get jobs and earn a livelihood.

"If they answer sincerely, they will agree that it is the Government. Their jobs are the direct result of investment missions headed by ministers, chief ministers and mentris besar.

"It is the Government which gave them incentives and formulated policies to enable them to in-

vest here, enabling workers to work in air-conditioned comfort," he added.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia had already achieved "full employment" status, according to the United Nations.

He said the official unemployment figure stood at four per cent, but this was regarded as "full" because there were always people who refused to work.

He said the presence of 700,000 migrant workers in the country showed that there were more than enough jobs available.

Dr Mahathir said the number of Malaysians who went abroad to work was very small compared to the number of migrant workers who came here.