

CNS4581

R GE 16-04 001'16 EG131

aae

UNIONISTS MAY NEXT CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF MALAYSIAN GOODS, SAYS PM

Mahathir - ILO

b m

MELAXA, April 16 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said trade union leaders, plotting to get Malaysia expelled from the International Labour Organisation may next call foreign labour groups to boycott Malaysian products.

He said he did not rule out the possibility of the unionists asking workers at foreign ports not to handle Malaysian exports.

The Prime Minister said he did not doubt their intention to undermine the nation's economy by making use of their close links with foreign trade unions.

+Leaving the ILO is nothing. The point is they'll resort to doing this kind of action,+ Dr Mahathir told reporters after opening the Hualon Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd textile factory at Tangga Batu, here.

He said he was inclined to foresee that upon getting the country expelled from the ILO, the union leaders would next ask the unions to work against Malaysia.-- more

▼16/04/16-58MST

R GE 16-04 00154 EG132

aae

Mahathir - ILO 2 Melaka

The Prime Minister said he knew who these trade union leaders were.

Dr Mahathir said they had no qualms about discrediting the country and undermining its economy so long as they get to be head of big unions to make the most of members' subscriptions and bully the government.

He said for them to be at the helm of the union meant getting paid for not having to work.

+This is what they want ... while the workers slog, they as union leaders get paid without working. They can go here and there to represent workers in conferences, so it seems,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir reminded workers that they had been able to find jobs in the country out of the efforts of the government and not because of the work of the union leaders.-- more

▼16/04/17-14MST

R GE 16-04 00093 EG133

aae

Mahathir - ILO 3 (last) Melaka

To a question whether Malaysia could attain developed-nation status sooner than 2020, he said this was possible if the current annual economic growth rate remained constant at 8.5 per cent.

However, he said, a downturn would normally follow a period of rapid expansion of the economy.

+So we must achieve high economic growth now as upon approaching 2020, the growth rate for developed countries will be a bit lower than the developing ones,+ he said.-- Bernama

▼16/04/17-39MST