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A BETRAYAL OF WORKERS' TRUST IF ILO SACKS MALAYSIA

Mahathir-MTUC

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 18 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described the action of Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) president Zainal Rampak as a betrayal of workers' trust in him as their leader if the International Labour Organisation (ILO) decides to expel Malaysia.

+The MTUC is certainly involved because it was Zainal who made the complaint to the ILO and if Malaysia is expelled it will be the workers who will suffer+ he said when asked to comment on Zainal's move to have Malaysia expelled from the organisation.

Speaking to reporters after welcoming the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Sultan Azlan Shah and Raja Permaisuri Agong, Tuanku Bainun on their return from a five-day visit to Austria at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang tonight, he said it was the workers, not the government that would lose out if Malaysia was sacked.

Dr Mahathir said the government was always finding ways to create more employment opportunities for the people and enhance the incomes of the workers in the country.

+With no strike, we can help enhance the workers' incomes 'but what the MTUC does is to **make** the workers lose their jobs. In this way the MTUC can claim for more nav. This is Zainal's way of doing things,+ he said. --more.

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Mahathir-MTUC 2 Kuala Lumpur

On Kelantan's move to introduce Hudud Laws, Dr Mahathir said the federal government would amend the Federal Constitution as soon as the Pas-led state government was ready to implement the laws.

He said the federal government was not interested in implementing such laws merely for the sake of telling others +that we are Muslims.+

The DAP has threatened to take the Kelantan state government to **court** if it introduces the laws to cover non-Muslims in the state concerned as well.

On this, Dr Mahathir said that since the DAP had helped to vote Pas into power in Kelantan, it was their problem.

As such, its secretary general Lim Kit Siang should not try to drag the MCA or Gerakan in the matter because the DAP had refused to cooperate with the two parties in the 1990 general election, he said.

He said the MCA failed to retain the Kota Baru parliamentary seat, which it always won, because the DAP had told the Chinese, voters to vote for Pas in the general election.

+So now, whatever action is taken by Pas is as the result of the support of the DAP themselves,+ he said. --Bernama.

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