

CNS7057

R GE 22-06 00196 ED986

REPEAT aae

ELECT RESPONSIBLE UNION LEADERS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

Mahathir - union

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Only responsible people, free of political influence and self-interest should be elected to lead trade unions, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today.

Expressing regret that there were some irresponsible union leaders who were more concerned about self-interest than the welfare of workers, he said it was time for Malaysian union members to take cognizance of the irresponsible actions of such leaders.

+Union members should not allow such leaders to tarnish the image of the country merely to serve their own-self interest,+ he said in his speech at the opening of the 19th Cuepacs Convention here. His speech was read out by Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

He said such leaders were more interested in playing politics to the extent of ignoring the country's interests so long as they could achieve their ends.

Without mentioning the names of such union leaders, Dr Mahathir said they did not care whether their actions would harm the country's economy or the fate of workers. -- more

▼22/06/15-04MST . . .

CNS7047

R GE 22-06 00156 E878

REPEAT aae

Mahathir - union 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said such union leaders were willing to slander and discredit their own country in front of international trade union bodies.

In this context, workers should be vigilant against irresponsible elements who wanted to see Malaysia fail in its efforts to become a developed nation,

He said Malaysia's success in the economic field, particularly in the manufacturing sector, had not only impressed many countries but also probably stirred envy among certain groups.

+This was because, Malaysia was now seen as a competitive nation which could threaten other countries in the quest for the world market and in view of this competition, there are people who did not wish to see us succeed,+ he said.

He said such groups would resort to all kinds of scheming to stifle Malaysia's aspiration to continue to progress. -- more

▼22/06/14-42MST

CNS7035

U GE 22-06 00163 ED988

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Mahathir - union 3 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister commended the Cuepacs leadership for not being extreme but responsible, mature, reasonable and sensitive to national interests.

He said such an attitude did not mean that the Cuepacs leadership was ineffective.

He said such an attitude on the part of the Cuepacs leadership had enabled many matters pertaining to the rights and interests of civil servants to be resolved amicably without any confrontation.

Dr Mahathir also said it was time for trade unions to review the objective of their formation apart from only championing the rice bowl issue, taking into consideration developments and progress in all aspects.

He said it was appropriate for trade unions to concentrate on bringing about social progress among members and enhancing their skills and knowledge.

Trade unions should educate their members on aspects such as the economy, productivity, quality, consumerism and the environment. -- more

▼22/06/14-24MST

CNS7048

U GE 22-06 00199 ED989

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Mahathir - union 4 Kuala Lumpur

+We do not want Malaysian workers to be left behind in understanding these aspects which are important in efforts to bring progress to the country particularly in the area of industrialisation,+ he said.

He said matters pertaining to the environment, market economy and consumerism would become increasingly important and would influence the development and progress of nations particularly at the end of this decade and in the 21st century.

For instance, the question of the environment had become such an important issue that a world conference on it was held in Rio de Janeiro recently.

He said the free market in the world economy was being threatened by the moves of the developed countries of the North to have blocs to restrict the economic progress of the Third World and developing countries such as Malaysia.

Workers should be aware of such developments, for if such blocs were formed, Malaysia's economy which was highly dependent on the outside market, would be jeopardised and this in turn would reduce national income and probably stop workers' income from going up. -- more

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CNS7055

U GE 22-06 00191 ED990

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Mahathir - union 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister also wanted workers to be sensitive to the aspirations and hopes of the people as their expectations were increasing and they were becoming cleverer unlike before when they accepted anything without question.

+Cannot play around with people and they should be well treated and attended to speedily and courteously,+ he said.

Expressing regret that there were still some civil servants who did not carry out their duties well when dealing with the people, he said there should be close rapport between the civil service and the people so that government's development efforts would go smoothly.

On annual bonus under the Sistem Saraan Baru (SSB), Dr Mahathir said it did not amount to an incentive for officers and staff because of the ups and downs in the economy, payment of bonus was not permanent but was closely connected with national income.

He said the government would fulfill its pledge depending on the country's economic performance and the financial position of the nation for the period in question. -- Bernama

▼22/06/15-01MST