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MTUC SAYS GOVERNMENT INTEREFERES IN UNION ELECTION

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KUALA LUMPUR, June 23 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) today protested at what it said was an attempt by the government to interfere in the election of trade union leaders.

Its acting president Abdul Gaffoor Ibrahim said the tone of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's speech at opening the 19th Cuepacs triennial convention yesterday was a reflection of the government's intention to interfere in the election.

+The government has no right to determine who should lead the union,+ he said of Dr Mahathir's call to union members to take stock of their leaders and ensure that only those who were free of politics and had no self-interest were elected.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech read by Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, however did not identify union leaders concerned but MTUC leaders felt it was directed at them.

Abdul Gaffoor, who is Railwaymen Union of Workers (RUM) Secretary General, said the government should respect the decision made by workers who had elected their leaders. --Bernama

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