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Attention editors: correction

In item E143, slugged +Mahathir-Advantage+ please read in last para... will NOT allow... and not as sent. Here corrected repetition.

WESTERN UNIONS OUT TO DESTABILISE MALAYSIA, MAHATHIR WARNS
Mahathir-advantage

92 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, July 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has warned of attempts by trade unions in the developed countries to destabilise Malaysia by dismantling the only comparative advantage it is now enjoying over the industrialised countries -- low-cost labour and low cost of living.

And he warns that if these attempts succeed and Malaysia loses such an advantage, it will become a permanently poor developing country.

In an article he wrote for the New Straits Times published today, Dr Mahathir asks workers and trade unions in developing countries to think twice when their counterparts from the rich developed countries express concern and sympathy for their lot.

As he puts it: + When competitors suddenly becomes supportive, there is reason for suspicion. As much as our goods are competing with their goods, workers in developing countries are competing with workers in the developed countries,+ he says.

He says there are many indications that the developed countries will not rpt not allow unhampered growth for Malaysia, which is getting a lot of attention because it is already one of the fastest developing countries in the world.-- more

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Mahathir-advantage 2.Kuala Lumpur

Leaders of the labour unions in the rich countries are working through international organisations to gain influence over union leaders in developing countries under the pretext of fighting for principles of free association and the right of workers to form trade unions and to take industrial action.

But according to Dr Mahathir, this is just to lend legitimacy and moral strength to their actual objective -- that of preventing the developing countries from competing with them.

This is why they call for fair competition and accuse developing countries of not competing fairly because they do not pay their workers fair wages, but by intentionally ignoring the fact that developing countries have to pay to the developed countries for their technology, management expertise and cost of capital which already put them at a disadvantage when competing with the developed countries.

+Are wages in the developing countries really low?+, asks Dr Mahathir.

He argues that wages of any kind are only meaningful when their purchasing power is taken into account, adding that sums of money are quite meaningless if what the wage earner can buy with them is less than what wage earners in other countries can buy.

Although one ringgit is worth two-fifths of US\$1 or 40 US cents at the current exchange rate, both currencies have about the same purchasing power, he says. -- more

▼09/07/14-11MST