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Repetition replacing garbled copy

MTUC LEADERS COMMIT TREACHERY, SAYS DR M  
Mahathir - MTUC

KUALA LUMPUR, July 10, (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) leaders did indeed commit treachery by discrediting Malaysia at last month's International Labour Organisation conference in Geneva.

However, the Prime Minister said, the government would not prosecute them as they had not broken any laws in going about running the country down.

MTUC leaders were at fault for being treacherous to the country and workers, he told reporters after opening an exhibition on Youth in National Development here today.

+Now they are smart... they don't break the laws,+ he said when approached to comment on the Cabinet's stand after discussing the MTUC's smear campaign against Malaysia at the ILO's recent three meetings.

He said : +They are traitors to their own country. They let themselves be used by western labour unions bent on seeing Malaysians losing their jobs and on crippling the country's economy.+ -- more

▼10/07/19-31MST

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Mahathir - MTUC 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said the government would take action against them if they broke the laws.

He named MTUC president Zainal Rampak and its secretary-general V. David as among trade union leaders who often discredited the country.

+People like Zainak Rampak and David only care for their own interests and not that of the workers,+ he said.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek had briefed the Cabinet of Zainal's lobbying of the other foreign delegates to criticise Malaysia at the recent ILO conference.

Zainal was also said to have collaborated with the International Metalworkers Union (IMF) in distributing pamphlets discrediting Malaysia.  
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Mahathir - MTUC 3 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said the government had no problem with or had nothing against the MTUC as an organisation, said to be the largest labour grouping in Malaysia.

+MTUC itself is alright. The problem is that the MTUC is led by the opposition,+ he said.

+This opposition party has no loyalty to the country. It is willing to discredit our country. It's okay if what it says is true, but it's all lies,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said its leaders were only interested in being chiefs and were after power.

+We are aware that when they lead a large organisation, they get large allocations and membership. They want to be leaders of large unions so that they can threaten the government and country,+ he said -- more

▼10/07/20-03MST

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Mahathir - MTUC 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Lim, who was present at the function, said his ministry would investigate the actual state of MTUC's membership.

He said he was given to understand that several MTUC affiliates had left the congress over dissatisfaction with its leadership.

The government need to determine the state of MTUC's membership and the reasons behind it to give the actual picture to MTUC members and workers.

The MTUC had claimed that it is the country's largest labour grouping with more than 400,000 members from 150 affiliates.

On this premise, the MTUC had demanded that it be appointed the Malaysian workers' delegate at all ILO conferences.

Presently, the MTUC and Cuepacs takes turns alternately to be the workers' delegate.

Lim, however said, his ministry's investigations had nothing to do with the MTUC's demand.

+MTUC has always been using the same membership figures although many affiliates have left it. This we must ascertain,+ he said.-- Bernama

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