

Dr M:  
MTUC  
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leaders

## guilty of treachery

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — The Malaysian Trades Union Congress is still guilty of treachery despite the Cabinet ruling out Government action against the congress leaders for their role in undermining the country's interest at the International Labour Organisation conference.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in singling out MTUC president Zainal Rampak and secretary-general V. David, said: "They are guilty but not by violating the law. Had they broken the law, we would have taken action."

He said the MTUC leaders did not break the law because they were "smart".

However, he said they were traitors to their country by letting themselves be pawns of western labour organisations which wanted to see Malaysian workers lose their jobs and the economy fail.

Dr Mahathir said this when replying to reporters' questions after he opened an exhibition on Youth in Nation Building at Lot 10.

On Wednesday, Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghafar Baba said the Cabinet had decided that the Government would not take action against the MTUC for its alleged role in undermining the nation's interest during the ILO conference.

Ghafar also stated the Government would not even take "indirect action" like tightening labour laws to check the activities of certain MTUC leaders.

The decision was made after the Cabinet considered the report submitted by Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek which revolved around the fact that many countries did not have national unions for the electronics industry because the workers received better wages and benefits.

Lim had earlier accused the MTUC of collaborating with the International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) to sabotage the nation's economy but Zainal denied the charge, saying that he had carried out his tasks responsibly and according to ILO principles.

Dr Mahathir said the activities of these MTUC leaders were motivated by self interest and not for their workers, and they must be exposed as the Government was not against the congress itself.

The problem was because the MTUC was led by the opposition which had no loyalty to the country.

"They are willing to badmouth their own country when they are abroad. It is all right if (these allegations) are true but these are lies."

"They lie to other people about the situation in the country (because) they want to maintain their leadership in a large trade union. We know, as leaders of large trade unions, they get big allocations and many other things (so that) in reality, they can threaten the country," he said.