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Mahathir-MTUC

KNOW MTUC LEADERS' TRUE COLOURS, SAYS DR M

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 26⁹² (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said the people should know the true colours of Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) leaders who put self-interests first above Malaysian workers'.

The MTUC leadership now was preoccupied with fighting for the cause of foreign countries and their workers only and not for the locals, he said.

Reporters had approached him at Parliament House after the opening of the third session of the eighth Parliament here to comment on MTUC's latest criticisms of government labour policies.

The criticisms are contained in the MTUC 1991/92 annual report to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the world's most influential and largest labour grouping.

In the report, the MTUC, among others things, accused the government of usurping the role trade unions by planning to organise Workers' Day celebrations on May 1.-- more

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Mahathir-MTUC 2 Kuala Lumpur

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said yesterday his ministry had obtained a copy of the report.

Dr Mahathir the MTUC leadership gave the impression that it was fighting for workers' interests whereas the leaders were actually serving their own ends and the vested interests of a certain political party in the country.

Malaysian workers should realise that the MTUC leadership was being made a tool to serve certain politicians, he said.

The government could not act against MTUC leaders because they would retaliate by demanding that the United States remove its General System of Preferences (GSP) privileges given to Malaysian manufactured goods, he said.

Moreover, he said, the MTUC was always depending on the representatives of foreign labour unions in Malaysia to further their intentions to block economic growth and employment opportunities in the country.

"MTUC leaders only cared about getting personal support and are not bothered about unemployment, in fact, the more unemployment, the better for them," he said.-- more

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Mahathir-MTUC 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said: "Actually, if we were to think about it, the MTUC has not created any job at all."

The Prime Minister said the composition of the Malaysian delegation to the International Labour Organisation conference in June had not been decided yet.

However, he said, anyone representing the workers could attend the ILO conference.

Meanwhile, Takashi Izumi, the secretary-general of the ICFTU-Asian Pacific Regional Office in Singapore said he had no knowledge of what was raised by Lim.

"I've no idea of this," said Izumi when contacted.

The ICFTU-APRO handles affairs of its affiliates in the Asia Pacific region. -- Bernama

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