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Mahathir-MTUC

PM SAYS MTUC MUST ALSO LISTEN TO GOVT'S VIEWS

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KUALA LUMPUR, April 29 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said he is prepared to listen to the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC)'s explanation regarding its report to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU).

However, he said, the meeting that MTUC leaders proposed to have with him should be a two-way affair.

MTUC leaders should also listen to the government's explanation and it is not just they who should do the explaining, he said.

"If they want to explain to me and they want me to listen, I too want them to listen to what I have to say," Dr Mahathir said.

The Prime Minister was approached by reporters to comment on news reports quoting MTUC secretary-general G.Rajasekaran that MTUC leaders would seek an appointment with him to explain the actual situation regarding MTUC's report to the ICFTU.-- more

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Earlier Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, presented excellent service awards to Home Ministry staff at the Prime Minister's Department here.

Rajasekaran said yesterday the report of last December's MTUC biennial delegates' conference was never sent to the ICFTU which is MTUC's parent body.

He had said copies of the report of the Dec 19 and Dec 20 meeting were only distributed among MTUC local affiliates.

Last Monday Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek revealed that former MTUC secretary-general V. David had sent to the ICFTU the report which criticised the government for siding with splinter unions and organising separate workers' day celebrations last year.

"I'm willing to meet the MTUC leaders as I have no self-interests. I am only put the country first," he said.-- more

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Asked on the date of the proposed meeting, Dr Mahathir said : "I have not yet received their letter. I can only fix the date of the appointment after receiving their letter."

The Prime Minister also commented on claims to the Kelantan throne made by three princes so far.

He said the government upholds the legitimacy of the throne.

"Whoever has the right should be given consideration," he said.

The three claimants so far are Tengku Ibrahim Petra Tengku Indera Petra, Tengku Iskandar Tengku Ahmad and Tengku Marzli Tengku Ibrahim.--  
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Dr Mahathir also said the majority of Barisan Nasional (BN) component members supported the proposal to expel Usno from the BN for forming a coalition government with the opposition in Sabah.

However, he said, there was no final decision yet on the matter as he had no opportunity to discuss the latest development regarding the proposal with the Deputy Prime Minister and BN secretary-general Ghafar Baba.

"I shall ask Encik Ghafar," he said. -- Bernama

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