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Maha thir-workers

GOVT WILL PROTECT WORKERS AND EMPLOYERS, ASSURES PM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 30 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today assured workers that the government would protect their interests and ensure that employers treat them fairly.

On the same premise, the Prime Minister said the government would also see to it that workers respected employers' interests.

"Employers will not be able to make profits without workers and similarly workers will not get jobs without employers," he said in a Workers' Day Message.

The nation observes Workers' Day tomorrow.

The Prime Minister said workers and employers should not adopt a confrontational attitude when solving problems.

"Confrontation is not, part of our culture in solving problems. Confrontation will only worsen the situation.

"The best way to solve problems between employers and workers is through negotiation, with both sides willing to give and take," he said.--
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The Prime Minister said the government would always be fair in dealing with any conflict between employers and employees.

He said employees should preserve industrial harmony and that Malaysia should learn from the experiences of a number of developed countries where, as a result of irresponsible industrial actions by their workers, their cost of production had increased.

"Consequently not only have their products failed to compete but their economic performance has also been affected.

"Unemployment has increased to 20 per cent and many have become homeless. When this happens, it is difficult for these countries to bring about a recovery of their economy," he said.

Dr Mahathir said in the interest of the future of the country and the workers, it was important that understanding and cooperation, between the government, employers and employees be maintained and enhanced. -- more
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He said the understanding and cooperation that existed between the three parties had contributed to industrial peace in the country.

This had enabled the government to focus not only on developing the economy but also in attracting foreign investments to the country, said the Prime Minister.

“Workers should realise that for Malaysia to develop and grow, industrial peace and harmony must prevail.

“Industrial conflicts will only threaten Malaysia’s competitiveness. If this happens then it is the nation and the workers who will lose out,” he said.

In conjunction with Workers’ Day, the Prime Minister called on workers to heighten their determination and efforts to help realise the national objective of making Malaysia a fully-developed nation by year 2020.-- more

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“Let us heighten our determination and together strive and work hard towards making Malaysia a fully-developed society which is highly respected.

"We have approximately 27 year to achieve a developed-nation status. This objective will only be achieved if workers play their part effectively, " said the Prime Minister.

He said in addition to ensuring that the investment climate was always good, workers must always work towards improving productivity and efficiency so that Malaysian products; would continue to remain competitive in the international markets. -- Bernama

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