

CNS5485

R GE 22-05 00182 EG619

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Mahathir-workers

INDUSTRIAL ACTION NOT THE WAY TO MAKE CLAIMS, SAYS PM

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PEKAN, May 22 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ⁹³ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded workers that they stand to gain more by being responsible, disciplined and helpful in their work to ensure their companies make profits.

Launching the Automative Manufacturers (M) Sdn Bhd (AMM) industrial park here, he said workers could benefit from their companies' profits by adopting this attitude instead of resorting to strike and industrial action.

He said workers were generally aware that their fate lay in their own hands and had been adopting such a positive attitude to help speed up the country's growth.

"We are convinced that our workers can get higher incomes without having to resort to pressure, strike, industrial action, and even trade unions," he said.

The Prime Minister said the industrial harmony in the country had attracted many investors, which led to a sharp increase in job opportunities and caused a shortage of workers. -- more

ROS YBY

♥22/05/21-19MST

CNS5491

R GE 22-05 00155 EG620

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Mahathir-workers 2 Pekan

He said this had led to a situation where employers had to raise salaries in their scramble for workers.

"When they compete for workers, they will definitely give good treatment, higher pay, fringe benefits, canteen facility and the likes. Isn't this better than workers resorting to industrial action?" he said.

Dr Mahathir said unfortunately there were workers and union leaders who thought they could gain by resorting to threats of industrial action.

Apart from trying to hold employers to ransom, these leaders also sought the help of foreign trade unions to threaten the government without considering whether the people in the country had jobs, he said.

He said such groups should not be supported because the government was the one bringing in investments and creating jobs while they never did anything to attract investments. -- more

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♥22/05/21-40MST

CNS5493

R GE 22-05 00178 EG621

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Mahathir-workers 3 Pekan

The Prime Minister said the government decided to privatise several of its agencies because it believed this could make them more efficient and reduce expenditure.

However, after the workers in these departments had reaped the benefits of privatisation, some not only were not thankful for what they gained but seemed as though they wanted to help the unions to threaten the government.

"They benefited a lot when the government privatised their divisions. Now they wish to join groups which like to threaten the government and disrupt industrial peace in our country. This baffles us because the people creating problem are the ones who enjoy the benefits," he said.

Dr Mahathir said although there were not many of such people around, their actions, if left unchecked, could jeopardise national development.

The industrial park, on an 11-hectare site in the Peramu new town here, was developed by Pasdec Corporation Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of the Pahang State Development Corporation. -- more

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22/05/22-04MST

CNS5494

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Mahathir-workers 4 (last) Pekan

It has a housing estate containing 300 houses, including four guest bungalows.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, accompanied by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, ministers from Pahang and state Exco members inspected the AMM plant which assembles Isuzu, Citroen, Mitsubishi Pajero vehicles and Tata trucks.

He then launched the latest model of the Isuzu Trooper by test-driving it and later had a first-hand look at how buses were assembled at the Masterbuilders (M) Sdn Bhd factory, which is also in the Peramu industrial estate. -- Bernama

ROS YBY

22/05/22-13MST