

PM warns workers of false foreign sympathy

By LEE KAR YEAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday assured workers that the Government is more sympathetic to their welfare than foreign unions or workers.

The Prime Minister said workers should not look upon foreign unions or workers as champions of their interests because the foreigners were more interested in fighting for their own benefit.

"Their sympathy is false sympathy. Their intentions are merely for their own benefit and not for our workers.

"Of course, they will not be sympathetic to our aspirations of becoming a developed country and being able to compete or even overshadow them," he said at a Workers Day dinner organised by the Human Resources Ministry here.

The Prime Minister said unions from developed countries were proven to be insincere when they failed to show sympathy or "brotherhood" to workers from the "least developed countries" (LDCs).

This was because the LDCs did not produce goods which could compete with those manufactured in the developed countries, he said.

"It is obvious that the so-called sympathy or brotherhood of workers and unions from the developed countries is false and it is meant to destroy the economy of developing countries which have succeeded in entering the

TURN TO PAGE 2

Strive harder, PM tells workers

FROM PAGE ONE

industrial sector like Malaysia.

"If the advice and assistance of these foreign workers and unions are taken, our nation's development will be jeopardised and the workers' security will be affected."

Dr Mahathir also called on the workers to increase productivity and step up competitiveness through efficiency, working harder and being prepared to learn new production methods in addition to high work ethics and discipline.

He spoke of Western countries where executives demanded very high salaries and shareholders wanted high dividends, resulting in an in-

crease in costs.

This in return caused the products from those countries to be uncompetitive even with those from Asia and developing countries, including Malaysia.

He said investors were more interested to go to developing countries because the salaries demanded were lower.

To enable the products from the Western countries to compete with those from the developing countries, foreign workers and unions were instigating those in developing countries to form "militant" unions, he said.

They encouraged these unions to push for higher wages and reduced working time so that production cost would increase, he added.