

CNS9714

R GE 31-05 00159 EA733

aae tbe

Mahathir-MTUC

MTUC SHOULD ACCEPT ROTATION SYSTEM FOR ILO CONFERENCE, SAYS MAHATHIR

bm

94
KUALA LUMPUR, May 31 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) should accept the government's decision to pick Cuepacs as Malaysia workers' representative to the International Labour Organisation conference this year under the rotation system.

"When it is another's turn, they (MTUC) should accept it," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said when speaking to reporters after officiating the German-Malaysian Institute here today.

The workers' representative to the ILO's annual conference in Geneva is selected from MTUC and Cuepacs by rotation.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on MTUC president Zainal Rampak's objection to the government decision to send Cuepacs as the workers' representative to the two-week conference beginning on June 7.

Zainal said he planned to raise the objection with the ILO's accreditation committee. -- more

ES LDB

▼31/05/16-27MST

R GE 31-05 00212 EA734

aae tbe

Mahathir-MTUC 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said MTUC did not represent all the workers in the country. "For that reason, it should accept that there must be others (Cuepacs) to represent the country's trade unions in the ILO (conference). When they (MTUC) went, others were not satisfied."

Asked if MTUC's plan to raise its objection at the conference would tarnish the country's image, Dr Mahathir said the action would only affect the workers in Malaysia.

"If MTUC used foreign trade unions to tarnish the (image of) our country, it means they are actually working against the interest of our workers," he said.

"What is the purpose of MTUC if it works for foreign workers and cause the downfall of workers in this country?"

A German reporter asked Dr Mahathir about the Malaysian government's recent efforts to attract investments from Europe although the country still had its "Look East" policy.

He replied that the policy did not mean that the government only attracted investments from countries of the east.

"The emphasis on Look East was because, before, we were looking fully at the west. Now, we look both east and west." -- Bernama

ES LDB