

Change of strategy to give factory workers better deal

KULIM, Sat. — The Government will continue working doubly hard to seek the continued betterment of conditions of Malaysian factory workers including improving their wages, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Government had changed its strategies by inviting investments in hi-tech industries as one of the ways to help raise their wages.

"The manufacturing of value-added goods through hi-tech industries, which do not require a big workforce, will help workers earn more," he said at a meet-the-people gathering at Kelang Lama near here.

Dr Mahathir said the move would also help reduce foreign labour that had been filling job vacancies created through the Government's efforts in promoting investments.

He said a change in strategies was required since the Government's initial aim of creating jobs for workers has turned into a resounding success.

The successful promotion of the manufacturing sector has created many wealthy Malaysians, including those from the Malay community.

"One of them could acquire a RM1.8 billion bank loan to buy the Malaysia Airlines System," he said, adding that their success reflected the success of the Government in creating wealth that could be shared by all Malaysians.

An equitable share of the country's wealth among the

various races was desirable, said Dr Mahathir, since it would prevent jealousy and hatred from breeding among the people.

"But the DAP in Penang is inciting Chinese hawkers in Penang by telling them that all these successful Malay businessmen are friends of Dr Mahathir," he added.

He urged voters to endorse the Barisan Nasional Government to enable the country to continue remaining in peace which enabled economic growth to proceed.

Dr Mahathir said the BN with its 14 components had a place for all races in the country. Through consultations their respective interests are being looked after.

He said despite gloomy predictions by the foreign media that the Malays would impose themselves following the Emergency Rule in the aftermath of the May 13 incident, the Government restored Parliament within two years.

"Nobody is being subordinated in BN, unlike in the DAP where people like Ahmad Nor, P. Patto and Karpal Singh, are subservient to Lim Kit Siang."

He said individual opposition parties could not be the alternative to the BN Government since each of them did not represent all the races.

Dr Mahathir said Press reports stating that some DAP supporters had wanted to assault former party stalwart Hu Sepang for voicing his opinions proved the opposition party's arrogance.