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Union-Dialogue

MTUC WANTS REGULAR DIALOGUES WITH PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) wants to have regular dialogues with the Prime Minister for it to be an active "social partner" to the government in nation-building efforts.

MTUC president Zainal Rampak said today the proposed dialogues should preferably be held once a year.

"There must be a two-way traffic being a social partner. The Prime Minister can tell us of the government's intention and plans in developing the country and our role in it. MTUC can then put forward proposals to help in nation-building," he said when commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement on the role of local trade unions.

He told reporters this after attending the convocation of five local colleges which have collaborative programmes with the British Nottingham Trent University. Zainal is deputy president of the Workers Institute of Technology, one of the five colleges involved.

Zainal said the MTUC had requested for a yearly dialogue when it met Dr Mahathir in July 1988 but there had been no response.

"Besides thinking about routine matters like better wages and pay and working conditions for workers, trade unions too have a role to play in developing the country. We are willing to put forward proposals from the grassroots," he said.

Zainal said the MTUC would go along with the government as long as it is for the good of the people and the country's development.

-- BERNAMA

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