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Mahathir-Workers

ACTION AGAINST EMPLOYERS WHO RETRENCH WORKERS WITHOUT NOTICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 30 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will take appropriate action against employers who terminate the services of workers without advance notice.

The Prime Minister however said the number of workers retrenched because of the economic slowdown was small.

"The employers should in fact give adequate notice. They cannot retrench them just like that," he said when asked to comment on reports that employers had resorted to retrenching workers without any notice.

Speaking to reporters at his Hari Raya Open House at Sri Perdana, Dr Mahathir said if such reports were true the government would take appropriate action against the employers concerned.

The Prime Minister noted that the problem of retrenchment in Malaysia was not that serious.

"In other countries, millions of workers have been retrenched. We do have retrenching of workers but only for a small group when compared to other countries," the Prime Minister said.

He advised workers who had been retrenched to be patient as there were still many employment opportunities in the country.

Asked whether certain employers were taking advantage of the current economic situation to sack their workers, Dr Mahathir said if this was the case, the workers concerned should report the employers to the Human Resource Ministry.

On the reluctance of Malaysian students overseas to return home to continue their studies, the Prime Minister said they would not be brought back unless they had places in local colleges and universities.

"We will not bring them back as they are private students. It is up to their means and depends on what they wish to do," he added.

Dr Mahathir said it was not that Malaysian students overseas did not wish to return but they had to ensure that the courses which they were attending overseas were available in Malaysia.

"However the fact is if we study overseas our money will go overseas and this will be a problem to the country," he said. -- BERNAMA

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