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PM WORKERS

WORK HARDER, PM TELLS GOVT WORKERS

KUALA LUMPUR, July 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has asked government employees to work harder and help the country avoid seeking help from the International Monetary Fund which would certainly impose certain conditions when help was requested.

He said they could help the country tremendously by working harder, speeding up application approvals and putting in extra hours.

Dr Mahathir said the IMF's approach to revive the economy include cutting wages, reducing the number of workers, closing down troubled companies as well as government departments which it deemed to be not useful.

To the IMF, he said that the workers' interests were not so important for what was more important was reviving the economy.

Speaking at the annual awards presentation ceremony for staff at the Prime Minister's Department here, Dr Mahathir said Indonesia today has 24 million jobless people, a number which was more than the number of all Malaysians put together.

The incomes and purchasing power of Indonesians had also fallen, he added.

The prime minister said Malaysia was lucky that it had not reached that stage yet.

However, he warned that Malaysia could deteriorate to that level if Malaysians did not work hard enough to pull the country out of its current economic malaise. -- BERNAMA

AD SHY