

18 APR 1999
Zainal-Convention
RATIFY CONVENTION 87, SAYS MTUC

PETALING JAYA, April 18 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has urged the government to consider ratifying Convention 87 concerning the right to form or join unions.

MTUC president Senator Zainal Rampak said the MTUC planned to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to present its case.

"We have written a letter stating our intention to pay the Prime Minister a courtesy call," he said after officiating at the International Women's Day celebration here today.

He said Article 10 of the Constitution guarantees every Malaysian citizen the right to be a member of any organisation, union or association or to form any association or union.

Zainal said ratification of the Convention would not affect the inflow of foreign investment nor affect the harmonious industrial relations in the country.

He said the MTUC would also send a letter to Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi calling for an investigation into the violent protests in the city following Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's jail sentencing on Wednesday.

He urged the people to remain calm.

Zainal said the people should be given the opportunity to air their views in a democratic manner but not by indulging in violence, destroying public property and intimidating others.

"We must respect the law and the authorities and likewise, the right of the people to hold peaceful gatherings must be respected," he added.

He also called on Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Berhad (STMB), the operator of TV3, not to victimise union members of the television station.

He said the TV3 management should negotiate a solution to the management-union dispute and not by transferring staff active in union matters.

"The dispute has been going on for five years and the MTUC had advised the TV3 union to seek a solution through negotiations but this approach has been ignored by the management," Zainal said.

-- BERNAMA
APG/AR THG