

Strikes have bad consequences, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat: The stand-off between the Airport Limo drivers and their employers may have to be handled by the Ministry of Entrepreneur Development before it gets out of hand.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said strikes can only have bad consequences and will have to be stopped immediately.

"I think we will have to take this to the ministry, only then will all this stop. Strikes are a very bad thing ... only to see who can do more damage," he said after visiting the Ministry of Land and Cooperative Development today.

The Prime Minister said he sympathises with the drivers, who have stopped their

services to protest against poor salaries and working conditions.

However, he stressed that going on strike is not the proper way.

"Everything will be destroyed. Kuala Lumpur International Airport provides you employment. If you ruin it, everything will be over. Think about it," he said in appealing to the drivers to stop their strike.

Mahathir said one should not take out their anger on people who are not involved.

"It's not fair. That's why I always say, negotiate. Don't stop working. If you stop, you are inconveniencing innocent people.

"By doing this, you are

jeopardising our economy.

"Tourists arrive looking for taxis but none are available. Everybody has problems. I have problems, but it would be tough if I went on strike," he said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said the slow adaptation of information technology among certain government agencies is attributed to the mindset of their staff.

"They are reluctant. They think they cannot handle the new technologies. We have tried telling them how, but they still go back to the old ways," he lamented.

Mahathir said another problem is that there are not enough trainers to train the staff on new technologies.