

# PM: Close rapport the key

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KUALA LUMPUR: The close rapport among the Government, employers and employees has contributed to the country's progress and development, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said their willingness to meet and discuss problems had averted industrial actions that characterised industrial relations in many developed countries.

"Our society does not consist of employees only, with no employers or Government. If we realise this, we will not take any action which might harm our country," he said at a Workers Day rally at the National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) yesterday.

Also present were Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman, and Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam.

Dr Mahathir said there were some countries where each sector looked at the others with suspicion.

"They cannot do anything without confronting each other and the only way to solve any problems was through a test of strength," he said.

He said such an attitude gave rise to the belief that

"might is right."

Dr Mahathir said the fall of communism had enabled capitalists to trample on the rights of workers.

"Giant companies become even bigger and more powerful through mergers and takeovers. Under the pretext

of globalisation and trade liberalisation, they demand that weaker countries remove all restrictions to allow their capital to move in and out freely," he said.

"We have seen the damage done to the country's economy due to the greed of these

capitalists," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the threat from the "greedy capitalists" was not over.

He said some developed countries were pressuring Malaysia to remove all restrictions on foreign ownership in local companies.

Speaking to reporters later, he said the Government would try to resist pressure to lift restrictions on foreign ownership of local companies.

Commenting on a protest by about 600 people near KLCC, Dr Mahathir said it was not the way of Malaysians.