

Dr Mahathir: Demonstrations not our way of settling problems

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. Participating in protests and demonstrations is not the Malaysian way of settling problems, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Commenting on the detention of 17 people by the police for being involved in an illegal assembly in the city in conjunction with Workers' Day today, the Prime Minister said there were proper ways to resolve issues.

"If there are problems, we can look into it. But at the same time, people cannot insist that they

must get what they request for," he said after launching a Workers Day rally for public sector workers at the Institute of Public Administration today.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said grievances raised by marchers could be addressed.

"For instance, if plantation workers are displaced, arrangements can be made for them to be relocated to other plantations, or other sectors.

"On our part, we have a re-

training fund which can be utilised for them to learn skills."

MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, when contacted and told that the majority of those involved were Indians, declined to comment.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress president Senator Zainal Rampak said organisers of gatherings or other worker-related events should apply for police permits.

He said such organisers should adhere to the regulations.