

29 MAY 2002

MTUC LAUDS PM'S MEETING WITH THE POPE

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 May (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) today welcomed and support the meeting between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Pope John Paul II at the Vatican scheduled during the prime minister's visit to Europe next month.

Its president, Datuk Zainal Rampak, said that the meeting between Dr Mahathir, acclaimed worldwide as a progressive, dynamic and moderate Muslim leader, and the Pope was an apt beginning for the noble cause of promoting world peace.

In a statement here, he said that the pontiff should also be commended for his generous gesture by inviting Dr Mahathir for the meeting.

Zainal said that the MTUC was confident that this landmark meeting would set the tone and pace for the peace-building process and resolve pressing problems in West Asia as well as those between India and Pakistan.

"Most problems faced by people have their roots in distrust, prejudice, hatred and suspicion, and these always threaten peace and political stability.

"When there is peace and harmony, there will be economic progress, job creation and sustainable development which workers worldwide look forward to," he added.

-- BERNAMA

VG MAM RM