

If locals don't take jobs, foreigners will, says Tun M

(at least) they still get a salary."

"If they don't work, foreign workers will take the jobs and our money will flow out of the country. We become poor and the unemployed have no income.

We can't give free money like last time (referring to the previous government)," he said when elaborating on what he said in his speech earlier that the influx of foreign workers was because many locals were reluctant to take 3D jobs.

"The government's priority is to ensure Malaysian citizens get jobs. However, I must say that the presence of foreign workers in the country stems from our refusal to take on certain jobs, even though we are capable of doing so," he said.

Asked if the government will ensure that employers pay higher salaries for 3D jobs, Mahathir said the government cannot dictate pay rates in the private sector.

"We can't force employers to pay more but we have to remember, we work for the nation, to develop our country. If we don't work, someone else will get our money and we will lose out."

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Mahathir sharing a light moment with (from left), Human Resources Minister M. Kula Segaran and Chief Secretary to the Government Datuk Seri Ismail Bakar while receiving a souvenir at the Labour Day celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. - **BERNAMAPIX**