

PENANG, SEPT. 29 (BERNAMA) -- DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMED SAID HERE LAST NIGHT +BRAND-CONSCIOUS+ MALAYSIANS ARE MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO MAKE THE PEOPLE CONSIDER HIS VIEWS WITHOUT BIAS.

THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEMBER SPOKE OF HIS PROBLEM WHEN HE ADDRESSED MEMBERS OF THE PENANG BRANCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA GRADUATES SOCIETY.

HE SAID MALAYSIANS ALWAYS LOOKED FOR A LABEL BEFORE DECIDING WHETHER TO BUY OR NOT.

+I HAVE BEEN CALLED AN ULTRA, A RACIALIST, AND AN EXTREMIST,+ HE ADDED.

+THESE ARE VERY CONVENIENT TERMS TO AFFIX ON A PERSON BECAUSE AFTER THE LABELLING, ANYTHING HE SAYS, HOWEVER HARMLESS, IS CATEGORISED AND MADE UNPALATABLE.

+IN A WAY, THIS IS ASSASSINATION OF THE IMAGE AND THAT IS THE PRICE I HAVE TO PAY FOR SAYING THINGS WHICH PEOPLE SELDOM LIKE TO HEAR.

+BUT I HAVE GOT TO GO ON SAYING SUCH THINGS EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH MOST OF THE LISTENERS.+ --