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UE181 AAE

MAHATHIR - PRESS

PM

EMBARGO: FOR RELEASE! AT 10.30 P.M. TODAY, NOV 9

84 P
SUBANG JAYA, NOV 9 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TONIGHT WARNED NEWSPAPERS OF THE DANGERS OF ~~SUCCUMMING TO THE~~ TEMPTATION OF GIVING THEIR READERS WHAT THEY WANTED.

HE SAID THAT SUCH AN ATTITUDE MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH IMMEDIATELY BEFORE IT GOT OUT OF HAND AND PROVED DETRIMENTAL TO SOCIETY.

DESCRIBING SUCH AN ATTITUDE AS A DANGEROUS DISEASE IF LEFT UNCHECKED, HE SAID THE NEWSPAPERS MUST AVOID MATTERS WHICH COULD LEAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THE COMMUNITY.

SPEAKING AT THE PRESENTATION OF JOURNALISM AWARDS SPONSORED BY THE MALAYSIAN PRESS INSTITUTE HERE, HE SAID RESPONSIBLE NEWSPAPERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ATTUNE THEMSELVES TO THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE.

HE ADMITTED THAT IT WAS NO EASY TASK TO ACT RESPONSIBLY, PUT SAID THERE WAS NO RUNNING AWAY FROM SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES.-- MORE
2012MST 09 11 84

D329

UE195 AAE

MAHATHIR - PRESS 2 SUBANG JAYA (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE LARGER AND MORE ESTABLISHED A NEWSPAPER GREW, THE HEAVIER ITS RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD BECOME.

+ NEGLECTING SUCH OBLIGATIONS, PARTICULARLY FOR THE MORE INFLUENTIAL PAPERS, WILL ONLY BRING DIRE CONSEQUENCES UPON US ALL, HE SAID.

HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS IN A COUNTRY WHICH WAS FOCUSING ITS ENERGIES TOWARD CREATING A MORE TRANQUIL NATION.

HE REGRETTED THAT SOME **PAPERS**, CONSCIOUSLY OR OTHERWISE⁹ HAD FALLEN INTO THE TRAP OF CERTAIN GROUPS BY VOICING THE LATTER'S SELF-SERVING INTERESTS.

BY BECOMING OVERLY INVOLVED IN ISSUES ESPOUSED BY SUCH GROUPS WHICH DID NOT HAVE ANY REAL BACKING FROM THE PEOPLE, THE PAPER OR MAGAZINE CONCERNED⁹ WITHOUT REALISING IT, HAD BEEN MADE USED OF, HE SAID.

+ **CONSEQUENTLY**, THE PAPER WOULD HAVE LOST ITS FREEDOM, WHICH WOULD BE A SAD AFFAIR- **INDEED**,+ HE ADDED. -- MORE
2121MST 09 11 84

D330

U E196 AAE
MAHATHIR - PRESS 3 SUBANG JAYA (EMBARGO)

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED OVER THE TREND AMONG NEWSPAPERS IN THE COUNTRY OF GIVING GREATER ATTENTION TO OTHER QUESTIONS WHEN AN EVENT THEY WERE COVERING DEALT WITH A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT MATTER.

HE SAID THAT WHENEVER THERE WERE **MEETINGS**, VISITS, **EXHIBITIONS** OR ANY OTHER **EVENT**, WHAT WAS GIVEN ATTENTION WAS NOT THE EVENT ITSELF BUT OTHER MATTERS THAT WERE OF INTEREST TO THE PAPER CONCERNED.

THE PAPER WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS PERSISTENTLY UNTIL IT HAD CREATED A NOT **ISSUE**, HE SAID.

+ THE RESULT WILL BE A CONTROVERSY, FANNED AND **FUELLED** BY THE PAPER **ITSELF**,+ HE SAID.

ULTIMATELY³ THERE WOULD BE TENSION AND ANXIETY IN SOCIETY TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT EVEN THE ECONOMY AND POLITICAL **STABILITY** WERE PUT IN JEOPARDY, WHILE SOLIDARITY WAS CAST **ASIDE**, HE ADDED. -- MORE
2123MST 09 11 84

D334

U E204 AAE
MAHATHIR - PRESS 4 SUBANG JAYA (EMBARGO)

HE ALSO EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THERE WERE LOCAL **JOURNALISTS** WHO HAD NO QUALMS OF **BECOMING** THE ERRAND **BOYS** OF FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS.

HE SAID THAT THESE JOURNALISTS WERE WILLING TO REVILE **THEIR OWN** COUNTRY, THEIR LEADERS AND THEIR RULERS.

HE SAID HE DARED TO MAKE SUCH A CRITICISM EVEN THOUGH HE REALISED HIS IMAGE COULD BE MARRED BY THE PRESS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT MALAYSIA WAS NOT YET AN ADVANCED AND STRONG COUNTRY.

+ WE NEED TO BE CAUTIOUS OR ELSE WE WILL CONTINUE TO RETAIN OUR WEAKNESSES WITHOUT ACHIEVING ANY MEASURE OF SUCCESS AND CONTINUE TO BE DICTATED TO AND **REVILED**,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE PRESS ALSO GIVE AWARDS **FOR** ARTICLES ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND UNITY EVEN THOUGH SUCH ARTICLES MIGHT BE IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

HE ALSO SAID THE FORMATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS RECENTLY PROVIDED MORE PROOF OF THE **FREEDOM** OF THE PRESS IN **MALAYSIA**. -- BERNAMA
2120MST 09 11 84