

# PM: BE MORE POSITIVE

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## 'Don't just pick on sensational crises'

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Prime Minister made an end-of-year appeal to Malaysians today to realise that there was more to the country than just the sensational crises.**

"I wish that Malaysians would resolve for 1985 not to emphasise crises (alone) but the positive things," **Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told newsmen on board the railway's Ekspres Selatan.**

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— Dr Mahathir yesterday.

way's 50 new coaches, boarded the train at Butterworth with **Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah.**

They alighted in Ipoh and continued the rest of the journey to Kuala Lumpur by plane.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysians, for instance, run down their own airline so that they themselves and other people would not fly the airline. "Yet everybody tells me that MAS gives excellent service."

He agreed that there were weaknesses in MAS but said that they were minor and people

should appreciate the airline for the service it provided.

He asked: "If we run down ourselves, how do you expect other people to respect us (especially) if everyday, when they open the newspapers and see on the front pages this crisis and that crisis ... when it is in fact not a crisis?"

The Prime Minister agreed that there should be constructive criticism but added that "if you play up one issue or sensational story everyday, foreign papers will pick it up and foreigners will hesitate to come to Malaysia."

It was a fact that foreigners had shied away from Malaysia, he added.

"In fact, some foreigners think we are near Vietnam and are afraid to come here because they are afraid they will get killed by the Vietnamese. This is all our own doing."

In criticising newspapers for sensationalising issues, Dr Mahathir said: "I know you must sell newspapers but you must remember (that) we have a country to run and if we run it (country) down, we will destroy it. And only we will pay for it."

For instance, he said, he even received a newspaper cutting from a friend saying that a Deputy Minister was corrupt.

"Of course, lots of people say I am corrupt but that (such talk) does not matter."

Elaborating on his speech at the Malaysian Institute of Management dinner on Friday, Dr Mahathir said he had observed that Malaysians found it difficult to work together, unlike the Japanese.

For instance, he said, Japanese contractors were not only able to compete with each other but were able to co-operate with their rivals to bid for tenders.

"Malaysians will never dream of working together; instead they will fight each other."

Dr Mahathir said that even if Malaysians were working in the same company, there was a lack of co-operation, understanding and tolerance.

He dismissed a suggestion that these negative attributes were due to their quest for materialism.

"Other people are just as, if not more, materialistic but they realise that their success (in acquiring) materialism depends on working together and not on taking all for themselves," he said.