

Don't harp on sensational issues – Prime Minister Dr M: Let's be positive

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By FARUSH KHAN

HUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad today called on all Malaysians not to harp on sensational issues and crises but instead emphasise the positive things.

In his New Year message, the Prime Minister said playing up sensational issues would only be detrimental to the nation;

He referred to a particular newspaper which he said had been playing up issues which included those concerning the MCA, the Papan nucleur waste dump and Bukit China.

He was aware it was done to make the newspaper more saleable but warned that "we also must remember we have a country to run. If we destroy our country, we will pay for it".

Dr Mahathir was speaking to reporters on the Malayan Railway's Express, Sinaran train from Butterworth to Ipoh. He was accompanied by Datin Seri Siti Hasmah. They later took a flight to Kuala Lumpur from Ipoh.

The Prime Minister said he welcomed constructive criticism but he was unhappy with the overexposure of the sensational issues.

"If we play up sensational issues one after another, then the foreign papers will pick them up, and as a result of which foreigners will hesitate to come here."

He called on Malaysians to make it their New Year resolution to count their blessings and refrain from regarding issues fac-

ing the Government as "sensational issues".

He said Malaysia was the envy of many other countries.

Malaysia, he added, was regarded as a model nation which enjoyed racial harmony, development, democracy, political stability and many other positive aspects which were admired by others.

"But some Malaysians don't admire them. They don't even care about these things."

He regretted that some Malaysians even run down their own airline.

"Yet people tell me MAS offers excellent service."

He said MAS certainly had some weaknesses but they were minor.

"If we run ourselves down, how are we going to expect other people to look up to us?" he asked.

He also regretted that some people did not appreciate what the Gov-

Malaysians find it hard to work as a team: PM

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ernment had done for them.

"I have travelled all over the world and I think Malaysians are lucky."

"In many other countries, the people get little, while Malaysians receive so many things from the Government."

Dr Mahathir also said he observed that Malaysians found it difficult to work as a team.

On the contrary, he said, Japanese contractors, for example, could compete as well as cooperate with their rivals to win contracts.

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