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KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT 18 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY EXPRESSED FEARS OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPAPERS HAVING BEEN +BRAINWASHED+ BY THE FOREIGN MASS MEDIA INTO CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES TO SUBVERT MALAYSIAN LIFE VALUES AND CULTURE.

THERE WAS ALSO A LIKELIHOOD OF THE FOREIGN PRESS HAVING SUCCEEDED IN USING OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING THIS COUNTRY, THE UMNO PRESIDENT SAID WHEN OPENING THE 37TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT THE UMNO COMPLEX HERE.

HE SAID THAT IN THE BEGINNING, ONLY THE FOREIGN MASS MEDIA WAS ENGAGED IN THE BRAINWASHING PROCESS IN THE COUNTRY, LEADING TO A GRADUAL CHANGE IN THE PEOPLE'S VALUES.

BUT NOW, THERE WERE LOCAL JOURNALISTS AND NEWSPAPERS THAT HAD BEEN CONVERTED BY THE BRAINWASHING, HE ADDED.

+IT IS NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR THE FOREIGN PRESS TO SUBVERT OUR LIFE VALUES AND CULTURE. WE OURSELVES HAVE TAKEN OVER THIS ROLE,+ HE SAID. -- MORE

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ON THE +CONNECTION+ BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MASS MEDIA AND OPPOSITION PARTIES, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THAT IN OTHER COUNTRIES, RACIALISTS, RACISTS AND CHAUVINISTS WERE GENERALLY CONDEMNED BY THE FOREIGN PRESS.

BUT FOR MALAYSIA, THESE SAME NEWSPAPERS SUPPORTED THE RACIALIST AND RACIST PARTIES LIKE THE DAP AND PAS, HE ADDED.

HE SAID HE WAS PUZZLED BY THIS AND WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER THERE WAS A LINK BETWEEN THESE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND PAS AND THE DAP.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF PAS AND THE DAP BEING USED AS TOOLS FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MALAYSIA, WHICH NUMBERED AMONG THE MUSLIM-RULED COUNTRIES THAT WERE DEMOCRATIC AND STABLE.

HE CRITICISED THE FOREIGN MASS MEDIA WHICH HE SAID WAS ACTIVELY TRYING TO UNDERMINE THE ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND UNITY OF MALAYSIA. -- MORE

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HE SAID THAT IN THE ECONOMIC FRONT, FOREIGN ZIONIST-OWNED MEDIA WERE FOUND TO HAVE HELPED THE NON-MALAY RACIALIST PARTIES DISSEMINATE STATEMENTS OVERSEAS CLAIMING THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WAS NOT STRONG, DID NOT HAVE THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT, WAS CORRUPT AND LIKELY TO FALL AT ANY TIME.

THIS HAD LED TO FOREIGN INVESTORS LOSING SOME OF THEIR CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNTRY'S STABILITY.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO REFERRED TO MALAYSIANS WHO MADE USE OF THE NAMES OF FOREIGN MEDIA AND MAGAZINES TO DISCREDIT NATIONAL LEADERS, INCLUDING HIMSELF.

HE SAID THE RUMOUR MONGERS HAD AT ONE TIME CLAIMED THAT THE FORTUNE MAGAZINE HAD PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE SAYING THE MALAYSIAN PRIME MINISTER WAS THE RICHEST PRIME MINISTER IN THE WORLD.

WHEN NOBODY COULD CONFIRM HAVING READ THE ARTICLE, THEY RESORTED TO VARIOUS PREVARICATIONS, CLAIMING THAT THE PARTICULAR ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE HAD BEEN BANNED IN MALAYSIA OR THAT THE MAGAZINE IN QUESTION WAS NOT THE FORTUNE BUT THE BUSINESS WEEK OR FORBES MAGAZINE.

HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THE REPORT WAS PROVEN TO BE UNTRUE, THE LIE CONTINUED TO BE SPREAD UNTIL TODAY. -- BERNAMA

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