

Press urged to aid public order

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — The mass media was urged last night to disseminate proper information to enable the public to understand police actions.

This was to ensure that the public would not misconstrue actions taken by police in maintaining law and order.

The call came from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad when he attended the annual Police-Mass Media

dinner at the Pan Pacific Hotel.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also the Home Affairs Minister, said:

"If certain members of the public fail to understand these actions, this will lead to the authority of the police being challenged."

He recalled the Memali incident in which police personnel were killed in the line of duty.

"However, there were certain quarters which made it look like the police were the guilty party," he said.

Another recent incident which the Prime Minister cited occurred in Terengganu where several policemen were taken hostage by members of the public.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded the public they should not take the police force for granted.

"Unlike several other

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sites in the West, we in Malaysia are living in peace and do not have to worry about moving about freely," he pointed out.

Also present at last night's dinner were Information Minister Datuk Mohamad Rahmat, Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayub, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Haniff Omar, senior officers, editors and journalists.