

CNS9398

U GE 08-07 00174 EG083

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Mahathir-journalists

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ALOR SETAR, July 8. (Bernama) -- Certain foreign journalists write bad reports about Malaysia because they are jealous of the success the country has achieved, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

They did not want to write anything more on countries which were unsuccessful other than to report that they were unsuccessful, he told reporters on his arrival here to close the inter-department sports of the Home Ministry at Universiti Utara Malaysia in Sintok.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said they wrote adverse reports about a country if it was successful.

They would be most happy if the country was poor and begged for assistance, he said. But they would look for something bad to report if the country was not begging for help, he added.

The prime minister was commenting on the expulsion of two foreign journalists who had come to Sarawak to report several foreigners protesting against logging; in Kuala Baram two days ago. -- more

♥08/07/18-45MST

CNS9411

U GE 08-07 00151 EG084

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Mahathir-journalists 2 Alor Setar

Anna Leonard, 30, a freelance journalist from the United States, and Frank Mumberg, 27, a journalist from a German newspaper, had been ordered to leave the country within three days from Saturday.

Asked whether Malaysia would screen foreign journalists entering the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the government had no (rpt) no plans to do this.

+Let them come if they want to. We have never banked on them to report positively (on the country).

+It has become a part of their culture to look down upon the coloured. The feeling that they are superior to us is still there,+ he said.

Asked about the detention of the eight foreigners claiming to be environmental activists who had demonstrated in Kuala Baram, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said: +Imperialism is actually not dead yet.+ -- more

♥08/07/19-00MST

CNS9421

U GE 08-07 00155 EG085

aae tbe

Mahathir-journalists 3 Alor Setar

+Some white people still think that we do not know how to administer our country... they must show us how to as though they are more knowledgeable than us ... superiority complex.

+Under their administration the Penans lived as they had been ... in fact in worse conditions than now,+ he said.

In the demonstration in Kolam Balak, Kuala Baram, four of the foreigners were said to have tied themselves to a crane, two hung themselves on the climbing ropes of a crane and two more chained themselves to a heap of logs.

On a report that several officers of the Home Ministry were under investigation, for corruption by the Anti-Corruption Agency (ACA), Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that he had yet to receive information on the matter.

+That is up to the ACA,+ he said. -- more

♥08/07/19-13MST

CNS9431

U GE 08-07 00167 EG086

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Mahathir-journalists 4 Alor Setar

A newspaper reported today that the ACA had detained an officer of the ministry and a businessman for corruption. The officer is reported to have been held in Kedah last Friday and the businessman, a used car dealer, in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

Asked about a reported allegation by the DAP that the Barisan Nasional had incurred expenditure beyond the legal limit in the last general election, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, said it was normal for the DAP to make such accusations.

+It will surprise me if the DAP can be sincere in its campaigns. But that is impossible . . . they resort to accusations, lies and personal attacks,+ he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir and his wife, Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamad Ali, were welcomed at the Kepala Batas airport by Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff and state executive councillors. -- Bernama

♥08/07/19-27MST