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Mahathir - media

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- The Western media must also write on the development taking place in the Asean countries instead of only publishing negative reports of the region, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Most often, reports on Asean from media outside the region did not highlight the positive aspects but the negative, he told reporters after opening the 20th annual delegates conference of Parti Gerakan here.

That was why it was necessary for the Asean countries to cooperate to rectify the imbalanced and biased reporting about them by the Western media, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir had been asked to comment on the agreement reached by Asean information ministers to adopt a common approach on the matter, at their two-day meeting which ended yesterday.

The Prime Minister said that though it would not be an easy task, Asean could at least attempt to overcome the problem through exchange of news emanating from the member countries. -- more

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Mahathir - media 2 Kuala Lumpur (last)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also spoke of the proposed +open university+ and said the government was looking into its establishment from the point of teaching manpower and the subjects to be offered.

He said there was a problem of obtaining the lecturers and professors and offering technical and engineering subjects.

+... as far as we can, we will find ways to have an open university although its scope may not be wide,+ he said.

In his speech earlier, Gerakan President Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik had said that the party welcomed the +open university+ because it was one way of offering higher education to the people.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said another problem that had to be looked into was the mode of presentation of the subjects.

He said that while it was easy to follow language and arts subjects such as geography and history, it would be difficult to study technical subjects from the home because of lack of adequate gadgets. The television might be used to broadcast the more difficult subjects which required the use of gadgetry, he added. -- Bernama

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