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Press

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JAKARTA, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Two Indonesian dailies today saluted Malaysia for its 'boldness in criticising the United States which had asked Japan not to support the proposed East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) sponsored by ASEAN.

Harian Merdeka, Indonesia's oldest daily, and Berita Buana, described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's action in criticising the U.S. as a bold move in the right direction.

+ It is not a Malaysian culture to be passive when there is a need to speak out. It is therefore not surprising that they hit back at the U.S. which is considered a close friend of many Asean countries, + said the Berita Buana in its editorial.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir criticised the U.S. attitude last week following a report that the American Secretary of State James Baker had asked Japan not to support the EAEC, a forum for stepping up free trade among countries in the East Asian region.--more

Press 2 (last) Jakarta

Harian Merdeka said that the U.S. and Japan were capable of taking political action through their aggressive foreign policies.

However, the daily was confident that Malaysia's aspiration to set up the EAEC would be realised if it had anticipated the problem and planned the way out.

One of the ways was to enhance relations with Western Europe, states in Indo-China and China and among the Asean member countries, the paper said.

The paper said the United States should be sensitive to the aspirations of other countries, especially the small developing countries.

+The U.S. should not dream of making its development model as the only one for the world, + the paper said.--Bernama

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