

U GE 03-06 00197 EA512

aae tbe

Mahathir-Report

UNDP REPORT BIASED. CANNOT BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report which ranked Malaysia below Israel in human development was biased and could not be taken seriously.

It reflected that the people who compiled the "Human Development Report" had no idea what they were talking about, he said.

This was obvious since Israel, where killings occurred everyday, was given a higher ranking while Malaysia, which was trying to create a more stable country, was ranked lower, he added.

He was speaking to reporters after opening the two-day conference on "Islam and Justice", organised by the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (IKIM), here.

The report, released last month, downgraded Malaysia in the human development rankings from the 51st position last year to 57th this year.

From a high ranking in 1991, Malaysia was moved down to the medium category last year and now it appeared that the country was slipping lower in terms of human development. -- more

HK LDB

▼03/06/12-52MST

U GE 03-06 00166 EA517

aae tbe

Repeat

Mahathir-Report 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said: "I don't think we can take this report seriously... Malaysia is being placed below Israel where people are killed everyday and children shot and they consider that as human right."

He added that the authors did not appreciate what Malaysia had done to bring about more stability in the country and they have been very biased in their report.

"The man who heads the study has no idea what human development and human rights is all about," he said.

Dr Mahathir said it was common now for the West to paint a negative picture of countries in the East and to ignore the development efforts being made.

"We can take for granted that many reports now are very biased and the best thing for us to do is to look after ourselves and do things the right way." -- more

HK LDB

▼03/06/13-34MST

U GE 03-06 00226 EA516

aae tbe

Mahathir-Report 3 Kuala Lumpur

Commenting on the UN-supervised Cambodian general election, Dr Mahathir expressed hopes that all Cambodians would accept the results.

The losers should accept their defeat, he said.

He added: "In an election, some people will win and some will lose."

What the Cambodians needed now was an understanding among the political parties that no absolute majority wins and that there was a need to form a coalition among the big political parties to govern the country, he said.

The Cambodian People's Party (CPP), one of the three major parties, had demanded for fresh elections to be held in four of the 21 provinces, alleging irregularities.

The party and the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen say irregularities took place during and after the six-day elections last week -- the first multiparty poll in Cambodia in decades and the first organised by the United Nations, which is presiding over Cambodia's tortuous path towards peace.

Dr Mahathir said CPP should accept the results as earlier, when they were winning in other areas, they did not protest but when they lost they alleged irregularities.

He said it was normal for losers to feel that way and he hoped that such feelings would settle down. -- more

HK LDB

▼03/06/13-33MST

CNS1233

U GE 03-06 00168 EA519

aae tbe

Mahathir-Report 4 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Berhad (Proton) would step up production, especially of the Proton Wira, to meet overwhelming demand.

Proton's present production capacity of 120,000 cars a year would be increased to 150,000 with the additional output being the Proton Wira.

Bookings for the Proton Wira, the latest Proton model launched by the Prime Minister on May 22, were filled for the whole year within a week.

The Prime Minister also said the action of the Kelantan PAS Ulamak Council in issuing pamphlets containing prayers against Barisan Nasional (BN) was unIslamic.

"Such action paints a bad picture of Islam," he added.

He said the PAS ulamak always put the blame on others and abused the objective of prayers to belittic other groups.

"When have we ever acted like that... no one has prayed to condemn others... that is unIslamic," he added. -- more

HK LDB

▼03/06/14-52MST

CNS1236

U GE 03-06 .00125 EA520

aae tbe

Mahathir-Report 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir also commented on an article published in the May 22 issue of the "Economist", quoting an investor as saying his company chose Pulau Pinang to build its US\$60 million plant because there were more Chinese there.

He said although the company, Syarikat Otis, a lift and escalator manufacturer, was free to invest anywhere it chose, the statement by the Managing Director Andrea Vecchiotti was myopic.

If the company wanted more Chinese, it could invest in China, he added.

He said many foreign companies which invested in states which did not have "more Chinese" were successful and did not face difficulties. --

Bername

HK LDB

▼03/06/14 52MST