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Mahathir-network

ASIAN MEDIA NETWORK NECESSARY, SAYS MAHATHIR
from Ali Mamat

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is working on the possibility of having some form of media network which will enable projection of the Asian or at least the East Asian countries in the proper light.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there were now no Asian newspapers or magazines for Asians but only Western papers published in the name of Asian countries.

Citing the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) as an example, Dr Mahathir said the main idea of the Western media was how to create friction and instability (in this region) because "if we are unstable, then they can compete with us".

"As we all know, the FEER is printed in Asia but controlled from outside Asia," he told a press conference at Istana Darut Taqwa near here at the end of his three-day visit to Brunei Darussalam.

The prime minister said the Western media could always be dismissed because it provides misinformation, resulting in the Westerners to conclude wrongly about our country. -- more

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"Western papers are telling their people that we are unstable and they believe them although we are actually doing well. As a result, they do not invest in this region and the Japanese who invested make all the money...this serves them right," he said.

He said that by having some form of regional media network, Asians will be able to report facts as they were.

"We are not going to say that this is good when it is not so," he said, adding that there were economic magazines which posed as economic magazines but they were actually political magazines which wrote everything about politics and neglected the actual economic facts.

For example, he said, if a country like Malaysia is doing well, they are not going to report that but instead they will report some obscure incidents.

"They will be very happy and satisfied if they can say that the prime minister is corrupt," he said. -- more

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Dr Mahathir also questioned the motive of Australian media tycoon Rupert Murdoch's recent purchase of Hong Kong-based Star TV Network.

"Why has Murdoch bought a 64 per cent stake of the network, costing some US\$500 million? If it is not going to control news that we are going to receive, then what is it?"

"There are plenty of places to make money. But paying such a fantastic price for a network that has never shown any profit, that is something we want to know why," he said, adding that now that Murdoch had bought over the network "we can be sure that it will also be working on the same lines (with other Western media)". -- Bernama

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