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Mahathir-Media

USE THE SERVICES OF REGIONAL NEWS AGENCIES, LOCAL MEDIA TOLD

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug. 7 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called <sup>93</sup> on the local media to make extensive use of the services of regional news agencies, like Bernama, as their reports were not biased.

The local media, especially the print media, should use news despatched by the regional news agencies because the reports of foreign news agencies were biased towards the West, he added.

He told reporters after opening the 40th MIC general assembly here that most of the foreign media which published or broadcast reports on developments in developing countries were controlled by Westerners.

He said: "The foreign media frequently criticised us for allegedly controlling the press in the country but actually they are the ones being controlled by the Western countries.

"All the international media are under their control. So, since they are in control, they publish or broadcast reports that are biased." -- more

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Mahathir-Media 2 Kuala Lumpur

Earlier, in his speech, Dr Mahathir, who is Barisan Nasional chairman, said the foreign media had, for instance, reported that the reason for him opening the recent MCA general assembly was to acknowledge the MCA leadership.

He added: "They knew that by making the comment they were providing ammunition to the opposition party and the Chinese to attack the MCA. In this way, they hope that party unity and racial unity in Barisan Nasional will be affected.

"They are disappointed that the country is peaceful and stable and we are able to develop the country at a rapid pace. They are happy if we were to experience acute racial chaos."

He said that in this way the Western countries could satisfy their arrogant attitude that they were superior and more knowledgeable about the political situation wherever they may be.

He added: "To them I would say, look at yourself first. You are less perfect than we are. In many ways, you are still racist. -- more

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"You like to pass comment on others but when others comment on your behaviour you accuse them of being unduly sensitive. In fact, it is you who are sensitive and intolerant."

Asked whether the motive of some of the foreign media in biased reporting of news on Malaysia was to destroy the country's economy, Dr Mahathir said that it might be so.

He said there were several economic magazines controlled by the West reporting news on Malaysia that were confusing to the readers.

"As such, readers who are Westerners are confused and do not take advantage of the opportunities available in Malaysia as they had read reports that were inaccurate, reports that were biased, that cast aspersions on us," he added.

Such economic magazines could actually be regarded as political magazines, he said.

"We do not ask that they heap praises on us but their reports should be factual," he added. -- more

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On the proposal to make Malaysia a media centre, Dr Mahathir said that it did not mean that the government could control the media.

He added: "They can publish and report their news here but we have no wish to control them."

Dr Mahathir also welcomed the statement by Star Television in Hong Kong, which was recently acquired by Australian media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, that it would broadcast reports that were not biased. -- Bernama

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