

# Use regional news agencies, papers told

NEWSPAPERS should use more materials from regional news agencies instead of those controlled by the West, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the bias contained in reports from western agencies did not help the country.

"They never appreciate our good deeds. They can only see the bad things about us," the Prime Minister said after opening the MIC assembly.

He dismissed claims by western publishers that the Government fully controlled the press.

"They, on the other hand, are controlled by the West," he said.

Dr Mahathir criticised economic magazines for publishing misleading articles about Malaysia.

Asked if his criticism would affect the nation's chances of becoming the regional media centre, he said: "We can make Malaysia the centre as they are free

to come here and publish what they want."

In his speech earlier, Dr Mahathir chided the foreign media for making reports that he had "endorsed" the MCA leadership when he opened the party's general assembly recently.

"The chairman of Barisan Nasional is not in the business of endorsing leaders of component parties as he cannot even endorse the leaders in his own party."

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