

CNS2123

R GE 03-03 00187 EH604

aae

Mahathir-Britain

BRITISH PRESS OUT TO UNDERMINE MALAYSIA

bm

KOTA BAHARU, March 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the British media made all sorts of false allegations against the Malaysian leadership because they wanted to undermine Malaysia's credibility in its efforts to solve world problems.

They hoped that by giving a bad impression of the country's leadership, Malaysia's voice in the international arena would no longer be respected, he said.

"Of course, we cannot determine their true intentions because we cannot read their mind. But the fact is that the attacks mounted by the newspapers against Malaysia and its leadership could have the effect of reducing people's trust in us," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this at a dialogue with federal officers at the Dewan Wawasan, Maktab Perguruan Kota Baharu in Pengakalan Chepa here.

He said that because they controlled the world press, any report by them was widely distributed in the world, and any denial by the Malaysian leaders could not possibly get the same mileage. -- more

▼03/03/21-20MST

R GE 03-03 00174 EH605

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Mahathir-Britain 2 Kota Baharu

Dr Mahathir said the newspapers could not be bothered whether there was any basis to their allegations because they had specific aims to achieve.

This forced the government to take action and the action chosen was to stop giving new contracts to British companies, he said.

He said it was hoped that this action would make them realise that the people in this country were dissatisfied with them.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia was fortunate that it could resort to such an action, something which not all developing nations were in a position to do.

This was because Malaysia was not too dependent on British aid, he said.

He said Malaysia's development had reached a stage where although it was somewhat dependent on their aid, it was not to the extent of making the country vulnerable to economic pressures.

"If they try to be funny with us, we can also take action," he said. -- more

▼03/03/21-40MST

CNS2140

R GE 03-03 00162 EH606

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Mahathir-Britain 3 (last) Kota Baharu

Dr Mahathir said the federal government was concentrating on development efforts to turn Malaysia into a developed nation.

"The government wants to see the people of this country equipped with the efficiency and knowledge that can determine the trend of our development without being dependent on others," he said.

However, the development sought was not the kind of progress achieved by some countries in Europe where there was too much emphasis on materialism.

Malaysia wished to become a developed country which also possessed noble values, he said.

Dr Mahathir said administrators should discharge their duties as a professional body implementing all the policies made by the elected government.

The separation and connection between the elected government and administrators was an important matter which, if not understood, might render the administrators incapable of administering the country successfully, he added. -- Bernama

HT YBY

▼03/03/21-58MST

▼03/03/22-23MST

R GE 03-03 00120 EH608

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Mahathir-Britain 4 (last) Kota Baharu (reopen item)

In his speech, Rural Development Minister Senator Datuk Annuar Musa said the federal government had never neglected Kelantan and the allocation of RM1,951 million to the state under the Sixth Malaysia Plan was testimony to this.

Of the amount, about RM799 million or 40 per cent of the allocation had been spent, he said.

He said 14 projects on health, education, public works and rural development would be implemented this year at a cost of RM299 million.

The federal government would rebuild the dilapidated Kota Baharu Hospital at a cost of RM45 million, he said. -- Bernama

WM HT YBY

▼03/03/22-23MST