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Mahathir - information

WELL INFORMED PEOPLE WILL NOT BE EASILY CHEATED- MAHATHIR

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JITRA, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- A well informed people will not be easily played around, humiliated or cheated by others, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Hence during this information era it would be wise for the people to seek information to enhance their knowledge so that they would not be easily cheated by others particularly foreigners.

"This is the type society that we wish to build in this country," he said when opening the RM895,000 Jitra Public Library here.

A country with adequate information could decide for itself what was good for its people, he said. -- more

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▼18/08/20-17MST

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Mahathir - information 2 Jitra

However in view of the wide range of information available easily and cheaply at present, people at times found it difficult to choose that was true and credible, he said.

People with information would become efficient and clever and evaluate things in a knowledgeable way in the course of their daily work, Dr Mahathir said.

Earlier Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Haji Osman Aroff said the state government was likely to make it compulsory for housing developers to provide special sites for libraries as part of their project particularly in areas with a large number of people.

At present developers were only required to add suraus or mosques in their housing projects, he said.

Speaking at a news conference later, Dr Mahathir said there were enough telecommunication companies in the country at present but if the situation warranted for more the government would consider it. -- more

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Mahathir - information 3 (last) Jitra

He said competition in the telecommunication industry was good but if there was too intense competition it would be unhealthy.

"We need big companies to be able to compete, companies which are able to invest in sophisticated equipment," he said.

In Malaysia there were small companies competing against each until they end up in bankruptcy and sometimes this would cause everyone to lose, he said.

"If he is a lawyer, he opens his own law firm with only he in the company. If he is an engineer, he sets up his own company with only he as the sole engineer in that firm. By right these people should join existing companies so that they will become big," he said.

He said the case of small companies competing against each other and ending up in bankruptcy should be avoided.

Intense competition among small paging companies had caused some of them to sell off to big companies, he said.

"This is of no benefit to the country. We want companies to compete but these should be big companies."

The Prime Minister said small companies should merge such as the companies in Japan, which cooperate to set up certain projects and compete in other areas. -- Bernama

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