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Mahathir-Sentence

COURT SENTENCE SHOULD FIT THE CRIME, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Sentences passed by the courts should fit the crimes committed rather than reflect public opinion, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In this connection, it is appropriate to take into account the type of offence committed when passing sentence, he told reporters after launching Yayasan Jactim, a foundation of the Japanese Chamber of Trade and Industry of Malaysia, here today.

He said this when asked to comment on a statement by the Chief Justice of the Federal Court, Tan Sri Eusoff Chin, who advised magistrates and judges against passing one-day jail sentences which he described as a mockery, useless and meaningless.

A jail sentence, to be an effective deterrent, should run at least a week, Eusoff said in Ipoh after attending the Perak Bar annual dinner on Saturday.

Earlier in his speech, the Prime Minister praised the establishment of Jactim Foundation which promotes cultural exchanges and educational programmes to enhance cordial links between Malaysians and Japanese.

"I have no doubt that with time these ties of friendship between Malaysia and Japan will grow stronger and build a strong bond through greater mutual understanding," he said.

He later received a cheque for RM98,000 from Jactim Foundation chairman Tan Sri Kazumasa Suzuki to support the Japanese studies programme at Universiti Malaya. -- BERNAMA

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