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Mahathir-Press

MAHATHIR RAPS THE PRESS FOR NEGATIVE REPORTS

PORT KLANG, Jan 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the attitude of newspapers that give prominence to reports on negative values and not projecting Malaysia's good image.

"I sometimes feel that we play up too much of the wrongdoings here, which we give wider publicity," he told reporters after witnessing the arrival of the world's biggest container ship "APL China" making its maiden call at the harbour here.

Citing a recent front-paged report of a taxi driver who had allegedly driven off with a passenger's belongings, he said in a foreign country a taxi driver stealing more from the passenger had not been reported.

"As if it was the newspapers' duty to tell how bad the Malaysians are," he said adding: "I don't know why...why do we do these things to ourselves?"

Dr Mahathir recalled the news reports on the Subang International Airport radar problem which he said the press was "playing up for several days that we heard nothing else."

"On the other hand, another airport in a country closer to us has similar problem but our press did not carry the report," he said.

Dr Mahathir made the comment when responding to questions on the government's intention of conducting an environmental impact assessment (EIA) for each state.

He said the government wanted to have more detailed information on the matter and added that he had often read the wrong information in the press.

Asked what measures the government would take to prevent further landslides, he said there was no guarantee to be given.

On the recent landslide at Km303.9 North-South Highway in Perak, he said the authority concerned had taken all preventive measures, including the use of a new technique to strengthen the earth structure in the area, to prevent its possible recurrence.

"Can anyone tell when there is going to be a landslide?" he asked.

"Yes, we find a way of preventing it, we will take all the necessary steps possible to remain alert...and after all these, the rest is God's will," he added. -- Bernama