

5 JAN 1996

Mahathir-Goods

MAHATHIR: SOME COUNTRIES TRYING TO PREVENT ENTRY OF MALAYSIAN GOODS

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 5 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today some developed countries were trying to prevent entry of Malaysian goods into their markets by trying to accuse the country of dumping its products.

Malaysia could not be regarded as dumping its goods in other countries because of the low prices of its products, he told reporters after opening the Federal Territory Darul Kifayah orphanage complex in Kampung Delima, here.

He said: "It is normal for the same goods to be sold in the country at a higher price as we impose tax and when they are exported no tax is levied; this is normal practice."

It was a matter of interpretation whether Malaysia could be regarded as dumping its products or not, he added.

He said: "This problem of dumping is found everywhere and it is a matter of interpretation whether to call it dumping or not; sometimes they want to prevent entry of our goods, they charge that we are dumping."

He was commenting on a recent London newspaper report which quoted European Community (EC) countries as claiming that many countries including Malaysia dumped their goods in EC countries.

He said: "Before they impose any countervailing duty they must first determine whether it is correct or not.

"Malaysia is also exposed to dumping, an instance being when we go into the steel industry, ours is a small one and so it is expensive."

He said they (the Europeans) had a vast steel industry and, thus, were able to give low prices which were "able to kill ours at any time."

"That is why we have to impose tariff barriers to increase the price of their goods; we resort to this as we are a small country but big countries need not do likewise."

Dr Mahathir said there were those who did not allow Malaysia to set up the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) although it was not meant to be a trading bloc.

When European countries become a trading bloc, no one got upset over the "double standard," he added. -- BERNAMA