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MAHATHIR SAYS TIME AND NEWSWEEK STRENGTHEN HIS POSITION

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 11 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the suggestion by two American weekly news magazines that he should step down has instead made him " more firm in his seat."

"One foreign magazine claims that the ringgit depreciates every time I open my mouth and that when I leave Malaysia for overseas, the currency regains value. Now I want to say that each time that TIME and Newsweek magazines open their mouth, I get a firmer seat here," he said.

" If there are anybody here who may represent TIME and Newsweek, please convey to them my gratitude for their suggestion that I step down because as a result that suggestion, I am now more firmly in my seat," he said.

Dr Mahathir made these remarks when launching the national truck " Hicom Perkasa" here today.

He also thanked the 18,000 people of Pahang for pledging their support for him when they turned out in Pekan last Oct 18 for the scheduled launching of the national truck which had to be deferred to today as the prime minister was indisposed then.

Dr Mahathir also thanked opposition parties, PAS and the DAP for their expressed support for him in dealing with the nation's current economic crisis.-- BERNAMA

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