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MINISTRY MONITORING REPORTS FILED BY FOREIGN MEDIA

JOHOR BAHRU, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today his ministry is monitoring reports filed by western media operating in Malaysia amidst attempts to tarnish the image of the country's leaders.

He said western media should not discredit Malaysia especially Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad through irresponsible reporting.

He said the views expressed by Dr Mahathir especially on the currency crisis were not only made in the interests of Malaysia but also that of the whole world.

Mohamed said the Prime Minister as a leader should not be prevented from exercising his freedom of speech.

He said Malaysians should not be taken in by the western media's irresponsible reports about the country's leaders.

"We can see from the current developments that the western media is attempting to tarnish the Prime Minister's image and erode the confidence of foreigners as well as Malaysians in his leadership," he said.

Meanwhile, Mohamed said Dr Mahathir would deliver an important speech on information technology when opening the IT campaign on Oct 11. --

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