

Don't smear us overseas, says Mahathir

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians should not smear the country's name overseas, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"Seperti meludah dilangit (akin to spitting skywards). They are only painting themselves with dirt," he said, referring to supporters of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim who made remarks about the country in the Philippines,

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Indonesia and Thailand.

Dr Mahathir said that Malaysians should keep whatever problems they have at home and when they have doubts they should settle them in the country.

"Don't run down the country," he said after launching the International Invention, Innovation, Industrial Design and Technology Exhibition here yesterday.

He said that no action would be taken against such people for their actions.

On Malaysia's election to the United Nations Security Council, Dr Mahathir said the country would not be intimidated by the superpowers in carrying out its duties as a non-permanent member.

Malaysia was elected to the council on Wednesday for the 1999-2000 session. It

received the highest number of votes with 174 out of the 176 cast.

"We are very happy with the result as the vote was very strong," Dr Mahathir said.

He said that Malaysia would stick to the facts and would not be biased.

Asked to comment on the Government's move to help Renong Berhad, Dr Ma-

hathir said he was resigned to the fact that the western media would always see it with a slanted view.

"You know, there are a lot of crooks and cronies. We are Asians... we are practising cronyism, corruption and nepotism. Anything we do is wrong.

"And you can print that," he said.