

Dr M invites journalists to visit Malaysia

24

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TOKYO: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has invited Japanese journalists to visit Malaysia for a first-hand look at the situation in the country.

"Come to Malaysia and see for yourselves. Do not trust CNN or CNBC," the Prime Minister said yesterday, adding: "They have a different agenda and they will tell lies in order to promote their agenda."

"They too are motivated by greed and the power they wield has corrupted them absolutely."

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's detractors had tried to undermine the country: as a result, he believed that many Japanese people were under the notion that there was continuous rioting in Malaysia and it was an unsafe place.

"I assure you that Malaysia is as safe as ever.

You not only can come to Malaysia but you can also do business there," he said at a symposium.

He said Malaysia was settling down after it gained control over the currency and the stock market but admitted that the country was not out of the woods yet.

Dr Mahathir said the Malaysian economy was already showing early signs of turning around.

"Reserves have gone up and the balance of payment is in surplus. Inflation is going down below the 5% that is prevailing now."

He said that although there was some political problem arising from the dismissal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and his being charged in court for various offences, the country was generally calm.