

# PM: Hard for truth to prevail on the Internet

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KUALALUMPUR: The ease of posting "news" on the Internet has made it difficult for the truth to be known. said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said although authorities could counter such rumours, those who had made the postings could in turn post more untruth.

"Because of the speed at which information could be posted, we may actually spend a lot of time sifting through the Internet to find the truth," Dr Mahathir said in a dialogue session at the Virtual Commonwealth teleconference

*"Governance in an Inter-networked World: Towards a Global Civilised Society."*

International participants in the teleconference were World Bank Group's United Nations Affairs vice-president Mark Malloch Brown in Washington DC, European Commissioner for Industrial Affairs, IT and Telecommunications Martin Bangemann in Brussels and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development secretary-general Rubens Ricupero in Geneva.

Other local participants were Just World Movement president Dr Chan-

dra Muzaffar, Mimos president Tengku Datuk Dr Azzman Shariffadeen and Multimedia Corporation executive chairman Datuk Dr Othman Yeoo Abdullah.

Speaking at the session, Dr Mahathir said although he welcomed the advent of the Internet, there were still fears that certain irresponsible people might misuse it to spread lies and rumours.

Citing a recent Internet rumour case, Dr Mahathir said many had believed about an uprising by foreign workers and this had caused many to rush to supermarkets to buy food.