

18/11/1998

American paper chided for error in editorial on Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The Washington Post, one of the US' most influential daily newspapers, has made a factual error in one of its editorials, referring to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the President rather than the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The newspaper which made the mistake in last Thursday's edition was rebuked in a letter to the editor sent from Kuala Lumpur the following day by the National Economic Action Council.

Copies were made available to several Malaysian newspapers today.

NEAC communications team member Lyn Chai said in the letter that such a glaring error was unworthy of a reputable publication such as the Post and urged the paper to do a little basic research.

"Malaysia has no President. Not every country is, nor may wish to be the exact replica of the United States. Some respect for the socio-economic, cultural and political differences of nations would go a long way to foster global understanding and tolerance," she said.

"Being so quick to condemn Malaysia, we would appreciate if a little basic research is applied before formulating opinions and dispensing advice to world leaders," she said, referring to the said editorial.

Thursday's Post had commented on US President Clinton's then scheduled visit to Malaysia for the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit in Kuala Lumpur.

It said Clinton was scheduled for the visit, as "that Southeast Asian nation's leader is disgracing himself with a craven crackdown on peaceful opponents".

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