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CNBC Asia's irresponsible presentations of events in Malaysia

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I AM a regular viewer of CNBC Asia. Needless to say, during the current problems in Malaysia, I have without fail switched on to CNBC Asia.

Let me make it clear from the start that I am not siding any party anywhere. I am just an ordinary citizen of this country with, I believe, a logical and rational mind. And normally, I would have let things be as they are. But events of the past few weeks compel me to write this letter.

CNBC Asia, in my opinion, has behaved in a very irresponsible manner in its presentation of facts regarding the recent events in Malaysia.

To a rational person, it is more than obvious that the presentation of facts was one-sided.

It was plain disgusting to see a TV concern like CNBC Asia taking sides so openly. Yet when accused of taking sides, it tells white-faced lies that it was only carrying out fair and balanced reporting.

I am disappointed with CNBC Asia as it has shown itself clearly to be childish, immature and bordering on the ridiculous.

As I watch CNBC Asia daily, I begin to get the picture which is getting clearer by the day - that it is purposely going all out to denounce Malaysia.

It insinuates whenever possible, it keeps repeating excerpts of interviews where somebody, somewhere has said something detrimental about Malaysia.

It apparently derives extreme pleasure in talking about the negative aspects of capital controls and keeps interviewing people about the matter.

On Oct 13, CNBC Asia showed two short excerpts of the speech made by Philippine President Joseph Estrada.

The first excerpt showed him declaring that the Philippines would never practise capital controls (who is begging them to?) as it would lead to black marketeering ...

The second excerpt showed him making sarcastic insinuations as to whether he would be attending the coming Asia-Pacific Economic summit in Kuala Lumpur.

But what shocked me was the sound of sharp, tremendous applause that followed both these excerpts of his speech. Both times, the sound of the applause was uncannily the same. It was extremely strange that CNBC Asia never showed the audience!

I am very sure that this loud deafening applause I heard (the very same on both occasions) was a monitored applause, and not original!

CNBC Asia, I am afraid, you have gone too far. You now have a vendetta against Malaysia. Mahathir-bashing has changed into Malaysia-bashing!

CNBC Asia, you know next to nothing about the complex governing of a multi-racial country. You don't seem to realise why it is that in Malaysia we do not approve of holding illegal assemblies, especially those that can lead to potential rioting.

The Government of this country is a very responsible one. Malaysia simply cannot afford race riots.

Of late CNBC Asia, I notice that you seem to be suffering from some kind of deep obsession. Never a day passes without you purposely airing some sarcastic or negative information about Malaysia.

Perhaps CNBC Asia, I could give you some examples of matters that you could air on your screen in the near future. Repeat at half-hourly

intervals the following:

- * Detailed interviews with Monica Lewinsky;
- * Dig into the past of Paula Jones;
- * Discuss the reasons as to why the First Lady of America is away on her wedding anniversary;
- * Talk at great length about the bailing out of billions of American dollars for failing hedge funds and also discuss the immediate future of other failing hedge funds;
- * Tell why CNBC Asia never criticises Singapore;
- * Discuss Joseph Estrada's past social life;
- * Talk about the failings of the Habibie Government;
- * The shaky position of John Howard in Australia; and,
- * Last but not least, what Amnesty International said about the absence of human rights in America.

It is my personal belief that Malaysia will finally weather all these attacks and come out of them stronger than ever.

Given its past records and achievements, this is one country you can't put down for long. If you study its history, you will come to realise just how resilient it is. I was born and bred in this country and I have tremendous faith in it.

Long live Malaysia!