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Mahathir-Reuters

DR MAHATHIR OPENS REUTERS' NEW OFFICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today officially opened Reuters Malaysia's new office at the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest buildings here.

The news agency's new premises are located on the 32nd floor of one the towers.

In his speech Dr Mahathir hoped news agencies would stick to their facts and not invent facts merely to be popular.

He said it was important for them to report news as what it was because people around the world, especially businessmen, would mostly make their decisions based on news reported by the agencies.

"It is important for them to make decision to invest or not and if the information is not accurate it will affect their decision.

"And I think that all reporters from news agencies provide the truth of what is happening and not to misinform their clients especially the businessmen," he said.

The prime minister said with the advancement of the information technology the people should be knowledgeable but unfortunately it was not so because there were a lot of them not getting the real news because they were seeing and hearing from the perception of what had been reported.

He acknowledged Reuters' credibility in reporting balanced and accurate news but cautioned it "not to be distracted from the path."

Dr Mahathir also said Malaysians see all the international televisions news reports with "jaundiced eyes" simply because they know that the reports about Malaysia were far from being true.

"If they can lie about our country, they could also do so about others," he said.

He said there was much sensationalisation of news nowadays than before and sometimes the news reported were provocative.

Citing an example, he said that if a person did not answer questions in an interview, the "smart reporter" would interpret the way the interviewed person response.

"It will be difficult for the person not to say or to say something in an interview," he said.

Jokingly Dr Mahathir said he wished he could be a reporter rather than what he is now during the interview, so that he could ask questions rather than answering them.

But, he said, life would be boring if there was no politician to entertain reporters.

Earlier Reuters Country Manager for Malaysia and Brunei, Gudrun Nienaber said the company had identified about RM20 million worth of new projects it would carry out in the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) over the next five years.

Reuters was granted the MSC status from the Malaysian government on June 1 this year.

The MSC is a 750-sq km zone south of here designated as a hub for the development of multimedia products and services.

The proposed projects include regionalisation of certain Reuters products and services, such as distributing Bernama news via its network and distributing Asian news feed for the Internet and on-line service providers.

The company also planned to launch a few new products in the next few

months, including an object-oriented display terminal with fully-integrated functionalities and applications known as Kobra and a web-based delivery platform for less heavy-users.

Nienaber added that Reuters' move to the Petronas Twin Towers, the building of a new data centre also in the KLCC perimeter, the MSC status, the financial investment and the launch of new products showed the company's long-term and strong commitment to Malaysia, to its clients and its high quality standard.

-- BERNAMA

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