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Mahathir-Press

FOREIGN PRESS ALWAYS BIASED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, Sept 18 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today slammed at the foreign press for being biased and always in favour of the opposition in the country.

To them, the opposition could do no wrong and accusing the Malaysian government of oppressing even if the action taken against the opposition was done according to the law, he told newsmen after visiting the Langkawi International Shooting Range Malaysia (Lisram) here.

The prime minister said the foreign press would say that it was normal if the government had acted on members of the government.

"We have dismissed Chiefs Ministers, Menteri Besar. We charged Members of Parliament in Umno and other parties. We imprisoned them if convicted and even sentenced them to death. The foreign press never say that we are fair.

"When we arrested and charged Guan Eng, that is oppressive," he said, referring to DAP Youth leader Lim Guan Eng.

Guan Eng should accept the court's decision that he had broken the law if he believed that the law was applicable to everyone, he said.

On nightly rallies of former deputy prime minister, Datuk Seri Dr Anwar Ibrahim, Dr Mahathir said Anwar knew that the law was very clear on the need for a permit for a gathering of more than five people.

But, he said Anwar seemed to think that he could break the law and more or less challenged the police.

"This is something he should think about. He tells everybody we are very oppressive...did not allow him to hold rally. He holds rally without permission," he said.

He said the foreign press seemed to believe that members of the opposition could break the law while members of the government were bound by the law.

-- BERNAMA

AHM ABG