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Malaysians told to be wary of foreign media

PONTIAN, Fri. - Deputy Home Minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting urged Malaysians to be wary of the hidden motives of foreign media which has tried to take advantage of the economic downturn to undermine the country's leadership and shake the confidence of Malaysians.

"They are outsiders but they try to appear experts in providing Malaysians with information on the situation here. They are trying to hint that there is something wrong in the country.

"The more they try to tell us that something is wrong, the more we have to watch their motives," he said after witnessing the swearing-in of the Johor Poultry and Livestock Farmers Association committee members in conjunction with its 31st anniversary yesterday.

Ong said Malaysians should question why the same media which praised the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about a year or two ago, was now reporting negatively.

"Why the sudden change? We have seen the good work of our leaders over the last 10 years, can this change overnight?"

Citing Time magazine as an example, Ong said the magazine praised Dr Mahathir "sky high" one to two years ago, but was now portraying him in a negative light.

He described the recent issue of Time which featured Dr Mahathir as an angry man, as a premeditated and hostile "interview".

He said by not banning that issue, the Government showed that the negative reports about Dr Mahathir were false.

He urged the people to rally behind Dr Mahathir, his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and their Cabinet, stay united, disciplined and focus on the strategies outlined by the Government.

"We have seen in other countries ... when the leadership is not supported by a majority of the country, it will collapse and ultimately the people will suffer," he said.

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