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Ohmae `has not resigned from panel'

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today denied a foreign report that renowned information technology consultant and author Kenichi Ohmae has resigned from the Multimedia Super Corridor's International Advisory Panel.

In fact, Dr Mahathir said, Ohmae, whom he met during his recent working visit to Japan, had agreed with him that Malaysia was a victim of bad Press by the international media.

He was asked to comment on a report in the Far Eastern Economic Review that Ohmae and futurologist Alvin Toffler had resigned because they were unhappy over the sacking of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

"I don't know about Alvin Toffler but I certainly know that Kenichi has not resigned," he told reporters after launching two new Perdana and Satria models by Proton at the Stadium Putra in Bukit Jalil.

Toffler is author of bestsellers like Future Shock and The Third Wave, while Ohmae is the author of The Borderless World.

Dr Mahathir said Ohmae felt the international audience did not get a true picture of Malaysia because of the distorted reports by the foreign Press.

Ohmae, he said, had even offered to help Malaysia counter the bad impression created by the foreign Press on Malaysia.

"In fact, he recorded a one-hour interview with me in English. He is flashing that all over Japan. He is giving (the interview) to the various (television) channels in Japan," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Toffler, however, did express his regret over Anwar's sacking.

The MSC is a special technology zone south of Kuala Lumpur, being developed for producing multimedia products and services.

Dr Mahathir said 35 companies have moved into the area so far.

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