

04/07/1998

PM slams local Press for negative reports

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday lambasted the local media for being more interested in selling papers by printing negative reports on the country.

"We have the Press in our country ... but they seldom help us but enjoy criticising the Government. If we say we are doing something for the country, they will report it negatively.

"I am sad as the Press should help us solve problems ... but they are more concerned about selling their papers and report negatively on everything," he said when presenting excellent service awards to staff of the Prime Minister's Department in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was referring to the recent coverage by major newspapers of the problems at the KL International Airport in Sepang when it opened for commercial operations on Tuesday.

"The problems at the KLIA were sensationalised (by the papers) ... other airports in the US were not able to function at all when first opened ... luggage was lost but when it happens here, reports are played up," he said.

"When we have a successful project, they do not say anything. This is not helping in solving problems.

"If we set up funds to revive the economy, they ask if it is to help specific people ... it is as though the fund is to help selected individuals ... certain names will be mentioned.

"I am happy that unlike the Press, the civil servants do not pose a problem but help us instead," the Prime Minister added.

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