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Provide balanced reporting: Dr M

THE local media should provide balanced reporting that will help the country in its economic recovery.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said while the foreign media acknowledge "the truth in our words" by criticising currency speculators such as George Soros, these reports are not published in the local press.

"There are criticisms of the International Monetary Fund by others but these are not seen in the local press. The local media also do not provide a fair and balanced view of the country and our economy.

"Of course, (the economy) is not doing very well now but Malaysians are able to live peacefully ... unemployment (rate) is not high, although there are some, but it does not run into millions of workers.

"This is evident in the correctness of our policy. Again there is no report on this," he said after the Worker's Day celebrations in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He was responding to a question on the role of the local media in the country.

Citing an example, Dr Mahathir said the local press publishes share prices of Singapore-based Central Limit Order Books (Clob) when these businesses do not benefit Malaysians at all.

It is also an illegal market in Malaysia.

Furthermore, shares of Malaysian companies traded on Clob are not acknowledged by the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.

(END)