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TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT MUST BE RESPONSIBLY, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

By: Durga Varma

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 15 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said that technological advancement should be used in a more responsible way but not to distort facts and to give an inaccurate picture of a country.

Referring to recent reports on CNBC which showed Malaysia in a state of turmoil, he said, "Why not show what is factual."

"Three quarters of the delegates who are here today believed that Malaysia is in a state of turmoil. There are riots everywhere and that the government is shaky.

"Even the prime minister cannot afford to have a cold." he said.

Speaking at a dialogue session with participants after opening the Apec Business Advisory Council business summit, he said a head of state had earlier mentioned to him that the misreporting on Malaysia was similar to what his country was experiencing.

Also present at the function was Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, who is here to the Apec summit.

Dr Mahathir said, "As you can see, Malaysia is quiet and calm. We will do our best and be hospitable to our guests even if they do not want to talk to us."

The prime minister pointed out that he does not believe in anything he sees in the foreign media.

"If they say lies about Malaysia, then they can also say lies about other countries.

"It is unfortunate, but it is true, lies are lies." he said.

To a question on currency trading, Dr Mahathir said Europe and the United States claimed that they would not be affected by the Asian turmoil.

"But today they are all affected as their investments in the region had incurred losses." he said.

"Suddenly they have lost their money they invested and my worry is that they are looking at it (regulate currency trading) from their own angle," he said.

They failed to look from our standpoint of view as such we do not see eye to eye on this, he said.

However, he said he felt that Europe and the US realised currency trading was bad in their own point of views.

"We have appealed that our voices should also be heard but they are big countries and they chose not to listen ... people who are well cannot understand how sick people feel until it strikes them," he said.

Citing an example, he said Malaysia borrowed lots of yen from Japan in the past, but when the country devalued the yen, Malaysia was not consulted and "we have to pay two-and-a-half times more."

To another question, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would like to contribute to a better world but the world as such is not the same as it had different strengths and stands.

To this end we have to compensate to any handicaps that people may have, he added. -- BERNAMA

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