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Mahathir-Editors

WEST ASIAN NEWS EDITORS BRIEFED BY DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 19 (Bernama) -- Eleven news editors from the west Asian countries met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office, here, today.

During the more than one hour-long meeting, the editors received first-hand information on Malaysia and its present political and economic situation from Dr Mahathir.

The editors of major news organisations of Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Sudan, Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are here for a five-day familiarisation tour, at the invitation of the government.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, UAE's Khaleej Times Editor, Surendra Nihal Singh, said the situation in Malaysia was misinterpreted by many, especially by the West.

He said the measures introduced by Malaysia to revive the economy would eventually be proven right despite the uncertainties as expressed by certain quarters.

"Some say that Malaysia is not doing the right thing but gradually more people are coming to Malaysia, saying that the country is doing the right thing," he said.

For Sudan's Al-Shahid Chief Editor, Dr Khalid Tigani El-Nur, the bad press received by Malaysia was the work of envious quarters which felt that the country could progress further, under the leadership of Dr Mahathir.

"Malaysia has become the new model for the Islamic world as well as the developing countries," he said.

Kuwait News Agency's Economic Editor Muna Sheshtar said the western media, in their reports, had portrayed Malaysia differently.

"I will tell what is actually going on here, to my country," she said.

Nasser Salloom Abdallah Al-Harthy of Times of Oman said Malaysia was well known to the people of Sudan especially through its Proton cars.

He said Proton's Wira was well-accepted in Oman and was popular among the young.

The editors will return home tomorrow.

During their stay, the group visited, among others, the Petronas twin towers KLCC and the Proton plant in Shah Alam.

They also met Special Functions Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin, local news editors as well as had briefings on the country's economy by the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) and Bank Negara.

-- BERNAMA

RAZ JK