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Praise for not censoring websites

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IF you surf the Internet you would discover that the verbal attacks on the Government, particularly Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, are deliberate, crude and cruel.

Despite these unhealthy developments, the Government should be applauded for not imposing any censorship. Censoring lies, even so-called hate speech, on the Net runs counter to freedom of inquiry and liberty of expression.

Government supporters and sympathisers have set up their own websites to counter these lies. It has been said that the way to counter offensive and bad speech is with more speech, not rules and laws.

Despite what detractors say, fair-minded Malaysians realise that democracy is well and alive in the country.

A democracy is after all a place where people can think, say or write what they want to and worship as they please and we certainly have that in Malaysia.

The anti-Government websites should stop spewing their venom.

On one hand, they claim that the local media is biased and therefore not credible. Instead of providing alternative views and using the power of thought and reason, they resort to sensational lies and work on the emotions of the young, their intended target.

Worse still some hide behind pseudonyms and do not accept responsibility for what they publish. Please do not belittle our intelligence.