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Mahathir-Information

STICK TO THE FACTS, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reminded news organisations to stick to the facts in their reporting since inaccurate information may lead to a disaster for other people including the economy of a country.

The prime minister said information which were coloured, biased or inaccurate might prompt governments, companies and investors to make the wrong decisions which could have adverse implications.

Citing an example, he said misreporting on the haze which hit Malaysia in 1997 caused the country to lose a lot of money in its tourism sector as news agencies did not take the trouble to tell the world when the problem was gone.

"We do hope that news agencies will stick to the facts and report things as they are," he said when opening the Bloomberg (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd new office at the Petronas Twin Towers, the world's tallest building, at the Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC), here.

Dr Mahathir also said outsiders who came here were surprised when they found out how peaceful Malaysia was with no racial riots, lootings, killings or food shortages which they had heard.

"So many people have expressed surprise about what they really see in Malaysia. This is an indication that they are not getting the right information," he said.

The prime minister said inaccurate reports by news agencies would not help anyone including themselves since it could lead to clients terminating their subscriptions.

Dr Mahathir also said analysts should refrain from reflecting their own feelings, leanings or even political affiliation when making comments which could affect markets.

Bloomberg is an information services news and media company serving customers in 100 countries. Bloomberg began its operation here in 1990.

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