

21 APR 1999

NAVARATNAM-ARTICLE

WASHINGTON POST CRITICISED FOR "SHAMEFUL" ARTICLE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 (Bernama) -- The Washington Post newspaper has been criticised for carrying on April 19 an article under the heading "Mr Mahathir's Disgrace".

Expressing shock over what he described as a shameful article, The Sungei Way Group's corporate advisor Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam said the newspaper should at least be professional by writing factually even if "it has a hidden agenda which has to serve its editorial policy."

In a statement commenting on the article, Navaratnam said that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, far from being "disgraced" as stated by the Washington Post, has in fact emerged as a courageous international leader, who has saved Malaysia from economic disaster and social, political and ethnic unrest in the country's multiracial and multireligious society.

"By rejecting the IMF (International Monetary Fund) formula that has caused untold misery and social instability in Asia, Brazil and Russia, Malaysians have continued to enjoy peace and stability without painful and disruptive restructuring of the IMF," he added.

He said many top US investors and financial analysts would now testify that the Malaysian economy was not only steadily recovering but could well be the first to fully recover ahead of the IMF assisted countries like Indonesia, Korea and Thailand.

Even the multilateral financial institutions like the World Bank, IMF and the Asian Development Bank have stated that the Malaysian economy was recovering, he added.

Navaratnam said: "It appears therefore, that the Washington Post is shaming itself by being unprofessional and out of touch with the real world.

"It is hoped that the Washington Post will not continue to embarrass itself and lose the respect of all fair minded and influential readers, whose support it needs to survive."

He called on the newspaper to instead promote goodwill between the US and Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

MFJ SA