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Embassy

MALAYSIAN EMBASSY SLAMS WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL

By: Salmy Hashim

WASHINGTON, March 14 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Embassy here on Monday slammed the Washington Post for its blistering editorial on Malaysia.

Deputy Chief of Mission Dr Fauziah Taib, in response to a Post editorial, criticised the daily for its inaccurate portrayal of Malaysia and its "offhand manoeuvre" in "oversimplifying issues and being selective in presenting the facts."

The newspaper's editorial, "Illiberal Malaysia," which appeared late February, heavily criticised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the handling of his former deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The daily described the recent arrests of two opposition figures as a "response to the smaller-than-expected victory of Mr Mahathir's coalition in December's semi-free parliamentary elections."

Dr Fauziah reminded the Post that Dr Mahathir is an elected leader of a civilian government who has been returned to office in free and fair elections.

She said by judging Malaysia's general election last Nov 29 as "semi-free parliamentary elections," the Post belittled the country's independent electoral system and the faith of many Malaysians in democracy.

"Democracy in Malaysia is alive considering that the opposition not only secured additional parliamentary and state seats but also won another state government in the election in November," she told the Post in a letter which appeared Monday.

-- BERNAMA

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