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Stop hurting nation by spreading rumours

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ONCE again, it seems that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has "risen from the dead". After the mindless rumours and lies that the PM had "passed away" in Argentina, Dr Mahathir appeared in London, looking hale and healthy.

Thank God the PM is healthy and had enjoyed a good holiday. Thank God Malaysians are now convinced he is well. Thank God that the wicked lies spread by certain people have once again failed to cause long-term damage.

The lies spread on the Web in the Laman Reformasi website have caused Malaysians a lot of harm. Their effect on the performance of the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange was immediate and destructive. This in turn, caused untold concern and worry for thousands of Malaysian businessmen like myself.

Just when we thought things were settling down and the economy recovering nicely, the rumours hit the market. What the rumours did for my business, which like any other business requires stability and confidence, was unfair, unnecessary and unforgivable.

Maybe the people at Laman Reformasi do not realise the extent of their actions. I tend to believe that they just do not care. They do not care about the peace and stability of the country. They do not care about the millions of Malaysians who were affected by their thoughtlessness and selfishness.

Not only were the rumours published on Laman Reformasi vicious and damaging, the cowardly manner in which the stories were quickly withdrawn following contrary evidence was even more disgusting. I am one of the many millions of Malaysians who are politically neutral. But I believe that recent actions of the reformasi crowd should be condemned by all right thinking Malaysians.

We are not talking about slurring the PM or trying to win points against the Barisan Nasional Government. We are talking about the livelihood of Malaysians which should not be sacrificed for the political benefits of a few. What right has the reformasi crowd to jeopardise our livelihood? Who gave them the licence to play with our lives and those of our children by doing as they please for their own political gain?

This is not the first time such rumours have affected the ordinary Malaysian. I remember that such rumours were spread hardly a year ago when the PM was in Mecca performing the haj. Another occasion was when the PM was admitted to Institut Jantung Negara. Then, the Laman Reformasi website had a running commentary of what arrangements the Government was taking to cover up the PM's death. The rumours then were the same, and the effect on the economy and the lives of Malaysians like me equally devastating.

I am sick and tired of the reformasi crowd playing with our lives. Their tactics are getting stale and driving support away. The rumours they spread may be just one big joke to them, but they should realise that nobody else is laughing.