

'Trust national news agencies'

S - 9 JUN 2004

Dr M: Stop depending on foreign media

KUALA LUMPUR: National news agencies of developing countries should trust one another and form a network for close co-operation instead of depending on foreign media, said former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Dr Mahathir said they could disseminate news from their countries through a network or the Internet.

He said foreign news agencies were bias and inaccurate in their reporting.

International news agencies

had their own agenda, he added.

"What they report, particularly on developing countries, is not accurate," he said yesterday during the media dinner of the 12th general assembly of the Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies (Oana).

Dr Mahathir pointed out that national news agencies of developing countries were more accurate in reporting about their countries.

He urged them to stop relying on news from the foreign

media and to trust the accuracy of national news agencies of developing countries.

"I'm sure news agencies in developing countries also report what's wrong in their countries and we should trust them," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he used to believe what he read in the foreign media until he found reports on Malaysia to be far from accurate and the country being portrayed in a bad light.

The dinner and talk was hosted by *Utusan Malaysia*, *New Straits Times* and *The Star*.