

# Apology to PM and DPM

SUN, 27 DEC 2001

An article appeared on the front page of the issue of *The Sun* newspaper of Tuesday, Dec 25, 2001 under the heading "Plot to kill PM: Local politicians hire hitman to also assassinate Abdullah" to the effect that the police have uncovered a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. The said article was written by R. Manirajan and Anita Md Nasir.

The report published by us was based upon information that the authors of the said article believed to be reliable. We have, however, subsequently conducted further investigations and have ascertained and now recognise that there was no foundation to the allegations contained in the said article and they ought not to have been published. We sincerely and whole-heartedly regret that they were ever made.

We hereby take this earliest opportunity of correcting our error and in expressing our unreserved and unqualified apology to our Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the Deputy Prime Minister, and their respective families. We also express our profound apology for the grave distress, hurt and embarrassment caused to them by the publication of the said article.

We also confirm that Hng Hung Yong, the executive director and editor-in-chief of the Sun Media Corporation Sdn Bhd, the publisher of *The Sun*, had resigned from the company on his own accord with effect from today.

Robert Ho, the chief news editor, journalist R. Manirajan and photographer Anita Md Nasir have been suspended by *The Sun* pending further investigations in respect of the said article.