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Mahathir-Media

MAHATHIR CRITICISES WAY MEDIA REPORT SEVERAL ISSUES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today criticised the way the media reported several issues recently which he said attempted to arouse the people's emotions.

The prime minister cited as examples reports on the increase in the petrol prices and toll rates.

"We (government) are disappointed with the coverage of the media on the petrol price and toll increase and other things which lean more towards arousing the people's emotions," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at the party headquarters here.

He also criticised the way some media had reported on the case of four people who were remanded by the court to enable the police to investigate the misappropriation of funds from the Hardcore Poor Development Programme.

He said the four had not been proven guilty but the way the news was reported, it would appear that they were criminals.

"This is not fair to the people concerned because it embarrasses these people," he said.

He said there were also media reports which said that a senator had asked for three times the amount of allowance for himself when in fact what he had asked for was an allocation to spend on many people.

"I hope that the media will report accurately and not sensationalise their reports," he said.

On international problems, Dr Mahathir said Malaysia's stand had not changed and the government felt that the problems arose because of certain parties which gave an inaccurate interpretation of Islam.

-- BERNAMA

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