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Khalil-Media

PANEL TO BE FORMED TO DEAL WITH FALSE REPORTS IN FOREIGN MEDIA

KUANTAN, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- The information and foreign ministries are setting up a joint-committee to deal with inaccurate reports about Malaysia appearing in the foreign media, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

He said the committee would hold its inaugural meeting next week to identify the steps to take to counter such reporting.

"(Foreign Minister) Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar and I have agreed to the setting up of the committee....we want to focus on matters that have been deliberately misrepresented," he said.

Khalil, who is the member of parliament for Kuantan, was speaking to reporters at a Chinese New Year reception organised by the Kuantan Chinese People's Consultative Committee.

He was commenting on the picture of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad appearing in the Jan 26 issue of 'Asiaweek' which, according to the Prime Minister, attempted to portray him as a foolish and tired-looking person.

Khalil said Umno executive secretary Datuk Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor had written to the Hong Kong-based magazine for an explanation.

"We had agreed to set up the committee even before this issue caused by Asiaweek as several other magazines had also misrepresented facts without finding out the true situation in the country," he said.

He added that such actions by the foreign media gave the impression that they had pre-conceived ideas about Malaysia and looked at the country with envy.

-- BERNAMA

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