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Panel set up to counter inaccurate news reports

KUANTAN, Sun. - The Information and Foreign ministries have reached an agreement to set up a joint committee to counter any inaccurate reports against the country by foreign media.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said a meeting between both Ministries on the formation of the committee would be held soon and he (Khalil) would chair it.

"Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar has agreed to set up the joint committee and we would be meeting soon to discuss the matter.

"Among the matters that will be discussed are ways to respond to such reports like the recent negative report about Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Asiaweek," he said.

Asiaweek in its Jan 26 issue had deliberately published a picture of Dr Mahathir in an attempt to portray him as a foolish and tired-looking person.

Khalil added that the agreement to form the joint committee was reached way before the report on the Prime Minister was published in Asiaweek.

"This agreement was made after we found that there were a few other magazines which had deliberately published reports which were wrong and done purposely," he said.

He told this to reporters after attending the Chinese New Year open house organised by the Kuantan Chinese Community Consultation Committee today.

Khalil said most of the foreign media reports concerning Malaysia were not accurate as they often portrayed the country and Dr Mahathir in a negative light.

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