

# PMM satisfied

SUN 29 DEC 2001

with resignations of the  
Editor-in-Chief and  
the Editor of The Sun

## Mahathir satisfied

from **FRONT PAGE**

and their respective families on its Thursday 27 December 2001 issue.

Asked whether a media council was needed to monitor the industry in future, Dr Mahathir said it was possible that such a council could prevent the incident from recurring.

"But everyone involved with the media must understand their responsibilities, not only to the industry (newspapers) but also to the Nation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said after reading the report in *The Sun*, he laughed because he did not expect the report to have a far reaching implication.

"But when I found that the news was spread to the whole world and had a negative effect on the nation, I had to make a rebuke on how serious the matter was. A newspaper report should take into account the interests of the nation because their (the media's) existence in Malaysia is dependent on the country's peace. If the situation in the country is chaotic, it is possible that they cannot do business," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the media owed its existence to the situa-

tion in the country and must contribute to the nation's stability so that they could "earn a living".

The Board of Directors had also on 27 December 2001 appointed a very prominent lawyer Datuk V. Kanagalingam (also known as Datuk V.K. Lingam) as the Deputy Chairman of the Company together with Frankie Tay Thiam Siew as the Executive Director of the Company. Datuk V.K. Lingam is an expert in media and corporate law and has vast experience in the Corporate sector.

Datuk Lingam and Frankie Tay will now guide *The Sun* in establishing itself as a responsible newspaper to the Nation.

Datuk V.K. Lingam and Frankie Tay were requested to attend a meeting today at the Bukit Aman headquarters with Datuk Salleh Md. Som, the Director of CID and Encik Ismail Bin Haji Omar, the Assistant Commissioner of Police for Bahagian Pendakwaan dan Undang-Undang. The police have been carrying out investigations since the publication of the said offending article and they would also be interviewing a number of other personnel who were involved in the publication of the said article.

PUTRAJAYA, Fri : Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is satisfied with the action of a few top level media practitioners of *The Sun* newspaper who resigned after publishing a front page story on a plot to kill him and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"That is the least they can do. It shows that they have some sense of responsibility," he told Bernama at his office here today.

Dr Mahathir said he was satisfied with the actions of key editorial personnel of the paper provided such reports were not published again taking into account the well-being of the country.

"Well, I'm satisfied but it should not happen again... that is important," he said.

On Dec 25, *The Sun* ran a front page report, quoting sources saying that an assassin had been hired to kill the country's two top leaders.

Following the denial by the police and the two leaders that there was such a plot, the Board of Directors of The Sun Media Corporation Sdn. Bhd., the publisher of *The Sun*, took immediate action. The Executive Director and Editor-in-Chief H'ng Hung Yong and the Editor Andy Ng tendered their resignations. In addition the Chief News Editor Robert Ho and the Managing Editor Chong Cheng Hai were suspended from their duties pending further investigations into the publication of the said offending article. The reporter R. Manirajan who wrote the offending story and the photographer Anita Md Nasir were also suspended by *The Sun* pending further investigations.

After conducting preliminary investigations, the Board of Directors were satisfied that there was no foundation or basis to warrant the publication of the said article. This paper carried a prominent front page apology to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister

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