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Business Week says sorry to Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR: *Business Week International* has apologised to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for writing a "rude and threatening" letter to him.

The apology is contained in a letter from its New York-based managing editor Robert Dowling, who is responsible for *Business Week's* international editions and its international correspondents.

"I am writing to apologise for any offence taken from a letter sent to you by our correspondent last week," he

said in his letter to Mahathir dated Sept 12.

He said the Sept 8 letter sent by its correspondent was a last-minute attempt to give Mahathir time to comment on a story the magazine was doing about his legacy and the transition of power to his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

A copy of Dowling's letter was made available to Bernama by the prime minister's press secretary, Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab.

On Sept 10, Mahathir criticised the

magazine for threatening to write nasty things about the country and its leadership.

The letter had sought his immediate response over claims of cronyism and corruption in Malaysia.

Business Week is published in New York by the McGraw Hill Group of Companies. The Asia edition of *Business Week* has a reported weekly circulation of more than 60,000.

Following the matter, Malaysia Airlines indicated it was pulling out its advertisements from the magazine.