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Don't ban 'The Economist', let it rot on the shelves

By Wan Ahmad Shihab Ismail

IT'S hardly surprising that The Economist has written negative things about the state of our country, and against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in particular.

A vocal critic of those who pull their puppet strings and those who tug on the rope attached to their nose rings, Dr Mahathir is a natural target for such publications which have abandoned journalistic integrity and objectivity. So what else is new?

Foreign publications such as The Economist have no business passing judgment on Malaysia, its leaders or people. Who are they, anyway?

How dare they make it seem like we would be happy to see Dr Mahathir leave? Did they not see the unprecedented outpouring of grief after he expressed his intention to resign? Even the Opposition expressed disbelief, shock and sorrow.

And now that we've come to terms with the Prime Minister's wish to resign, and we prepare ourselves to usher in a new administration, how dare they try to create a sense of hostility and disunity, as well as insecurity about this transition process we are currently experiencing?

Having said all that, I think perhaps we should stop paying too much mind to what the foreign media say about us.

While I am one of those who protest against the malice contained in the pages of that publication, and while I find the words written against Dr Mahathir and Malaysia disgusting and distasteful, I feel that this pathetic excuse for a magazine is not worthy of the kind of attention it is currently getting.

Let's not ban the magazine. Let it rot on the shelves. We can do without their brand of so-called intelligent reporting.

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