

21 JUL 2000  
Thailand-Mahathir  
THAI DAILY PRAISES DR MAHATHIR

By: R.Ravichandran

BANGKOK, July 21 (Bernama) -- A Thai language daily "Naew Na" (Frontline) has praised Malaysia and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad, saying that Malaysia can be a model for Thailand.

This was contained in an editorial of the Bangkok-based Naew Na, picked

up by the Bangkok Post in its edition today.

Under the heading "Malaysia can be our model", the editorial said that

Dr Mahathir, determined to make Malaysia a strong country and independent,

had always exhorted Malaysians to be proud of themselves and not think of

themselves as inferior to the people in the West.

"He wants Malaysia to stand on its own two feet and to be on equal

terms with its western counterparts," it said.

The editorial said that to realise his objectives, Dr Mahathir had

reformed the civil service, took stern action against corruption and mobilised good and capable people to develop the country.

"Needless to say, Malaysia is now way ahead of Thailand in terms of

development," the editorial said.

The editorial also asked, "Is it too much to ask Thai political leaders

to learn something from Malaysia?"

It was hard to find Thai politicians who truly dedicated themselves to

the betterment of the country, it said.

The editorial said that Thai politicians only wanted to be in the

government so they could accumulate power and wealth.

"In developed countries, there are cultural norms that prevent bad

people from causing harm to society. With a dedicated group of national

leaders, people can live in peace and prosperity," the editorial added.

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