

PM tells private sector to hire more women, bumis

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Yesterday, the former premier took Western governments and media to task for accusing him of controlling the press and highlighted how these quarters suppressed anti-Semitic views.

Today, however, Dr Mahathir Mohamad appeared to be in a more romantic mood.

In his blog posting titled "Springtime in Putrajaya" today, the 87-year-old doctor-turned-politician spoke of how his brainchild is littered with flowers.

"Putrajaya is blooming. The trees along Persiaran Utara and Leboh Sentosa are like sakura trees, sometimes covered with pink and white flowers completely or with some leaves and more flowers.

"It has never been like this. Perhaps it is because of the dry weather. Unfortunately when it rains the flowers drop. But then the grounds under the trees are covered with pink and white petals, like snow.

"It will not last long. But hurry to see Putrajaya in springtime," he wrote.

Meanwhile, on his posting yesterday, Mahathir revealed how his post-retirement reading about Western countries made him realise that censorship was more stringent in that part of the world.

"The American and Western media and publishers are totally forbidden to say anything unseemly about the Jews and in particular Israel.

"They may also not report about the un-American activities of the Jews in their own country," he said.

Claiming that the Jews of the world demand that nothing bad is said about them, he added that all western governments concurred with this.

"Any unsavoury reference to the Jews and to their depredations will earn the condemnation not just of the Jews but also of western Governments as anti-Semitic.

"In today's world no one is allowed to be anti-Semitic (Incidentally the Arabs are also Semitic people). And the media and publishers must never publish anything that may be considered anti-Semitic. If they try they will be censored," he claimed.

Mahathir, who has ruffled feathers numerous times with his views on this subject, said a person can condemn any race or nation for anything whether false or true, but not against the Jews.

"If anyone does that, his statements or his book or article will not be published. Only unknown publishers or the writers themselves may publish. The great bookshops will not sell them.

"It is clear that there is censorship in the West and it is even more rigid. In fact there are Western countries which have laws to punish anti-Semitic utterances," he added.

In view of this, Mahathir said the West had no right to preach about what it did not practice.

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