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# Dr M: Take middle path in blogging

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad hopes bloggers will find a middle path in expressing their views to help improve the country.

He said some blogs and newspapers were either too supportive of the government or too negative about how the country was being run.

"They must find a middle path to deal with the issues at hand so that we can contribute to society in a better way," he said at the two-day first Malaysian-Asean Regional Bloggers

Conference yesterday.

Thirty-five bloggers from the region are taking part in the forum with the theme "Blogging Mindfully and Responsibly".

The moderators included *New Straits Times* columnist Azmi Anshar and *Utusan Malaysia* deputy chief news editor Datuk Zaini Hassan.

Dr Mahathir, who blogs at [chedet.co.cc](http://chedet.co.cc), was made the patron of Blog House Malaysia, which aspires to bridge the gap between organisations and bloggers and elevate their blogs to a more credible platform.

He said the government might not

cancel the Internet but bloggers must be responsible while commenting on what was happening around them so that their views would benefit the country.

They had a role to play in shaping the views of the masses and how the country should be administered, he said.

"There is no censorship but since I started blogging, I find some people to be too sycophantic and supportive or too critical."

He hoped the mainstream media would allow themselves to be critical of the government as they were unwilling to criticise the government.

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— Tun Dr Mahathir  
Mohamad  
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"They feel that it is their role to support the government all the way."

Dr Mahathir said the mainstream media might also be practising self-censorship, which gave the wrong impression that they were being censored by the government.

"This is where blogging comes in...where we take a middle path."