

# Dr M: Freedom has its limits

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MIRI, Fri. — Anyone claiming that Malaysia lacked human freedom should also look at the records of some developed countries where varied levels of discrimination are obvious, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said Malaysia did not want to have human freedom to the extent that the people could riot in the streets and burn houses to give vent to their feelings.

"If this is what is meant by freedom then I do not want it," Dr Mahathir said at a Press conference at the end of his four-day visit to Sarawak.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on a United Nations Development Programme report, which said Malaysia scored high marks for human development but performed poorly in human freedom.

Dr Mahathir also raised the issue of international democracy, particularly be-

tween nations.

In this regard, the powerful nations often oppressed the smaller ones. The efforts by some big countries to undermine and block the formation of the proposed East Asia Economic Group (EAEG) was one example, he said.

The Prime Minister said that some developed nations were fond of accusing smaller and underdeveloped countries for not giving their people more freedom.

But there are developed countries which discriminate against immigrants who are of different colour origin.

They also suppress their aborigines, often leaving them out of the mainstream of national development.

Asked whether he was angry with such claims, Dr Mahathir said that he was used to such allegations, adding that these people would never admit their mistakes.