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Mahathir-Organisation

NGOs MUST BE PROPERLY MANAGED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 11 (Bernama) -- The Umno Supreme Council today expressed dissatisfaction over the exploitation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) by certain people to become pressure groups and criticise the government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said many NGOs were being used as a front and registered with the Registrar of Companies but not being managed properly like the other bodies in the country.

"We want the NGOs to truly present the voice of the people and not that of a few individuals," he told reporters after chairing a Council meeting at the Umno Headquarters.

"As such the NGOs must have a registered organisation with specific office bearers who keep records including the financial record and their sources of funds," said Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno President.

"This way, we can ensure that only NGOs that can function for the benefit of the people and country are functioning actively instead of allowing certain people to misuse the NGOs to become pressure groups and trying to bring down the image of certain agencies," he said.

"We hope that the press which plays an important role in our society realises its power and uses that power carefully so as not to raise problems in society," he said.

Dr Mahathir said this matter was discussed because of the many criticisms levelled at the press which sometimes made inaccurate reports or analyses.

He said there were newspapers which gave credit where it was not due and vice versa.

"We only want them to take seriously the heavy responsibility thrust upon them as one of the bodies in a democratic country," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the meeting also supported the government's foreign policy to be on good terms with developing countries.

He said Malaysia tried to help these countries because they were grateful and welcomed the support given to their development. -- BERNAMA

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