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REVIEW SOCIETIES ACT, SAYS LAM THYE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Social activist Datuk Lee Lam Thye today urged the government to seriously look into the Societies Act to see how it can help facilitate the formation of respectable and credible non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the country.

He said certain NGOs had resorted to the Companies Act to register themselves because of the difficulties they encountered under the Societies Act.

"This problem can be overcome with NGO leaders who are responsible and fully accountable to their members and the cause they believe in," he said in a statement, here.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday expressing concern that certain NGOs had resorted to register themselves as companies instead of societies and were not properly managed.

Lee, who is also Pemadam vice-president, said he believed that the NGOs must perform their duties fairly and for the national interest if they were to enjoy not only the confidence of their members but also that of the public.

"It is reassuring to note that the prime minister wants NGOs to champion the cause of the people and the community," he added. -- BERNAMA

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