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NGOs call for second look at review of Plan

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues - A group of non-governmental organisations today called for a second look at the Seventh Malaysia Plan mid-term review that showed the Indian community as having achieved the highest growth rate.

The group gathered outside the gates of the Prime Minister's office complex and asked to hand over a memorandum to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the subject.

The group calling itself Gabungan Badan-Badan Sokongan Kemajuan Saksama says it is an ad-hoc support group endorsing the memorandum and counts 36 NGOs as part of it.

Members of the group were informed by Assistant Special Functions Officer Mohd Shafiq Abdullah that Dr Mahathir could not see them as he had a very tight schedule.

The group's spokesman, K. Arumugam, together with a few members then met Shafiq before giving him the memorandum.

"The data provided by the Seventh Malaysia Plan mid-term review does not tally with the grassroots situation and we are asking the Prime Minister to review the mid-term review to get the actual situation," Arumugam told reporters later.

He said if the Indian community was considered to have achieved the highest growth rate it may not be included in poverty eradication programmes.

Arumugam said that Shafiq told him the memorandum would be forwarded to Dr Mahathir.

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