

18/06/2000

Foreigners use NGOs to interfere, says Dr M

FOREIGNERS have used non-governmental organisations to interfere in the internal affairs of countries and caused problems for their Governments, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said issues like human rights, democracy, child labour, rule of law, cronyism and corruption were used by local and international NGOs to create tension and riots to destabilise developing countries.

"Sometimes, the leaders of developed countries even incited NGOs and other bodies to demonstrate and riot so that the Government is toppled and replaced by their puppet government," he said when opening the MCA general assembly.

Dr Mahathir said they used democracy and human rights issues to justify their interference and their unfounded accusations.

He also criticised foreign media like CNN which deliberately painted a negative picture of Malaysia whenever an incident like the Sipadan kidnapping occurred.

He urged the Chinese community to ignore such claims and avoid a narrow racial perspective.

When asked later by reporters about an Utusan Malaysia report on an impending Cabinet reshuffle which would see the revival of a Law Minister who would also be the Attorney-General, he said he had not heard about it.

"I don't know, ask Utusan," he said.

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