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Mahathir-Suhakam

GOVT NOT BOUND TO ACCEPT ALL SUHAKAM'S VIEWS, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, April 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government is not bound to accept all the views expressed by the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam).

"That's their views, but that is not necessarily the government's view. We are not bound to accept all their views," he said in response to a question on the Suhakam's first annual report.

Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Musa Hitam handed over the Suhakam 2000 Annual Report to Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail at Parliament House here today.

Earlier, the prime minister delivered a speech at the Young African Leadership and Intellectual Dialogue organised by the African Students Society in Malaysia at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Dr Mahathir said the responsibility of the nation's security lies with the government and the police and not with Suhakam.

"The responsibility of security is not with Suhakam, but it's with us...with our police.

"So we have to listen to their views," Dr Mahathir said.

Asked on the tense situation in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, and the security of Malaysian consulate there, the prime minister said that he had not received any information but if there was any threat to their safety, the Malaysian staff should return home.

However, Dr Mahathir said he was confident that the Indonesian authorities would ensure their safety.

"I feel that they will be taken care of," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the government was not reviewing Vision 2020 which was introduced in 1991 to steer the country into being a fully industrialised nation by the year 2020.

"Not review the Vision. We want to be a developed country but a developed country of the year 2020 is going to be different from a developed country when we first launched Vision 2020 in year 1991," he said.

Dr Mahathir was asked on his speech at the dialogue where he said that Vision 2020 may change again in 20 years before the year 2020.

The prime minister said Malaysia had to take into consideration the difference in the achievements of a developed country.

"Because in future developed countries will be based on their ability to use information technology," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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