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SUHAKAM NEED NOT BOTHER ABOUT NGOS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, May 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Malaysian Human Rights Commission (Suhakam) today not to be bothered with the action of the 32 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that have refused to cooperate with it for 100 days.

"Who cares about the NGOs," the prime minister told reporters at the airport here after a visit to the island.

He was asked to comment on the decision of the NGOs, including Aliran and the National Human Rights Association (Hakam), not to have any dialogue with Suhakam or to send reports to it for 100 days to show their regret over the role played by the commission in championing human rights.

Hakam president Ramdas Tikamdas was reported as saying yesterday that in the two years of Suhakam's existence, the question arose as to whether it had succeeded in fully championing human rights in the country.

Ramdas had said that the appointment of Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman as the new Suhakam chairman and the dropping of Tan Sri Anuar Zainal Abidin, Prof Mehrun Siraj and Datuk Dr Salleh Mohamed Nor as commissioners had affected the credibility of the commission.

-- BERNAMA

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