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Budget-NGOs

PM CALLS FOR GOVT-NGO SMART PARTNERSHIP IN SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister has called on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to strengthen understanding with the government through smart partnership in building a responsible and caring Malaysian society.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that towards this end, they must set standards in evaluating their performance, especially with respect to effective leadership as well as their activities and financial management.

"This will enable them to become more ethical, efficient and accountable in discharging their duties as NGOs, " he said when tabling the 2004 Budget at the Dewan Rakyat here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister, said that to help NGOs undertake their activities, the government has allocated RM96.4 million in the 2004 Budget, including RM6 million for AIDS prevention, RM20 million for women and family development, RM20.8 million for health programme and RM26.6 million for activities to support the disabled.

He said the government acknowledged the contribution of NGOs in carrying out welfare activities and appreciated their spirit of volunteerism, even risking their own safety in undertaking their missions.

"We have witnessed the courage and bravery of MERCY during their peace missions to provide assistance to war victims in Afghanistan and Iraq," he added.

-- BERNAMA

NER MFJ RV RYN