

# MAHATHIR 'ALLAYS FEARS

Barisan  
says  
yes to  
Dayak  
party

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — There need not be any fears that an opposition party could come to power and use the recent amendments to the Constitution to introduce new laws detrimental to bumiputras, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.**

The Prime Minister said no opposition party had the ability to form a government because none of them had the support of the majority of the bumiputras, which was crucial for any party wishing to rule the country.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno president and Barisan Nasional chairman, was speaking to reporters after chairing a Barisan Supreme Council meeting.

Earlier in the morning, he had briefed all Umno divisional chairmen and information chiefs in a special meeting on the events leading to the resolution of the Constitution amendments issue.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some of the

division chairmen had raised the question of an opposition party coming to power and using the amendment to Article 66(S) to make its own changes to the Constitution.

(Following the recent amendment, Article 66(S) does away with the need for Royal assent to Bills passed by Parliament, which would become law within 15 days of being presented to the Ring for Royal assent, whether or not this assent was given.)

(The Government is amending this in a special Parliamentary session tomorrow. The new law would enable a Bill passed by Parliament to become law after 30 days whether or not Royal assent was given.)

(It would also contain a provision for the Ring to voice his objection to a Bill after which the Bill would be sent back to Parliament for further debate.)

(If the Bill is passed by a two-third's majority, it would again be presented for Royal assent and become law after 30 days, whether or not the assent was given.)

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he and other party leaders explained to the divisional chairmen this would not happen "because the opposition party would need the support of two-third's of the MPs for this purpose."

The Prime Minister said the party leadership took the opportunity to explain in detail the Constitution amendments issue, including the reasons for the changes, the reactions after the amendments were made, the resolution of the issue and tomorrow's amendments to the original changes.

He said those present voiced their support on all the actions taken by the Government

and also told party leaders they understood the issue.

Asked by reporters to name the "traitors" who had obstructed efforts to solve the issue, he said: "If I remember rightly, in my speech in Sarawak I said that I would expose them if I did not succeed in resolving the issue."

"Fortunately or unfortunately, I succeeded. So there is no need to expose them."

"Obviously they have failed and I do not take action against failures."

He also said it was not up to him, but to the party itself to decide whether such "traitors" should be allowed to stay in the party.

"I cannot expel people just because they did something like that. I know who they are but I need proof," he added.

Asked about the recent issue over the national flag not being hoisted during the Sultan of Johore's visit to three districts in the State, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he had not received any report on the matter.

"I am not aware of it. I have not been told of it officially or unofficially. All I know is what I read in the newspapers," he said.

Asked if any investigation on the matter was being conducted, he said: "Possibly."

Questioned about the incident at the AGM of the Port Klang Umno branch during which a warning shot was fired in the air, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he was waiting for a full report on the matter.

He added that it was up to the police to act as the people involved had lodged police reports.