

PARLIAMENT-RULER
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, JAN. 9 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY -THE IMMUNITY OF THE RULERS FROM PROCEEDINGS IN COURT DID NOT MEAN THAT THEY WERE FREE TO COMMIT CRIMES, TORTURE ANYONE, SEIZE PROPERTY OR REFUSE TO PAY DEBTS.

IT DID NOT MEAN THAT WHAT WAS WRONG FOR THE PEOPLE WAS NOT ALSO WRONG FOR THE RULERS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WHEN TABLING THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1984 IN THE DEWAN RAKYAT.

HE SAID THAT ALL MALAYSIAN CITIZENS WERE PROTECTED BY LAWS ADMINISTERED BY THE COURTS BUT ARTICLE 181(2) OF THE CONSTITUTION STATED THAT "NO PROCEEDINGS WHATSOEVER SHALL BE BROUGHT IN ANY COURT AGAINST THE RULER OF A STATE IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY."

THE ROLE OF A RULER IN ADMINISTRATION, WAS SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY BE PROSECUTED IN COURT, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ARTICLE 181 (2) MEANT THAT A RULER COULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO PROCEEDINGS IN COURT ONLY.

--MORE 1906/HM

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THE PRIME MINISTER REFERRED TO A LETTER HE RECEIVED FROM THE MP FOR JELUTONG, ENCIK KARPAL SINGH, LAST MONTH ON LEGAL PROTECTION IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACTION OF RULERS.

HE SAID THE JELUTONG MP AND THE PEOPLE NEED NOT WORRY BECAUSE +CRIMES CANNOT BE COMMITTED BY A RULER ALTHOUGH HIS HIGHNESS IS FREE FROM ACTION UNDER LAWS ADMINISTERED BY ORDINARY COURTS.

THE CONSTITUTION DID NOT INTEND FOR THE COMMITTING OF CRIMES TO BE A PRIVILEGE OF THE RULERS, HE SAID.

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SPOKE ON THE ROLE OF UMNO IN OPPOSING THE MALAYSIAN UNION PROPOSED BY THE BRITISH AND IN RESTORING THE POSITION OF THE RULERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED TO REPEAL AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 150 AND THE EIGHT SCHEDULE AND RESTORE THEM TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM.

THIS WAS WHAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD OFFERED AS A COMPROMISE TO THE RULERS, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA 1915/HM