

# No changes to tribunal, says PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — There will be no changes to the composition of the six-man tribunal set up to determine the position of suspended Lord President Tun Mohamed Salleh Abas.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this today when asked by reporters whether there would be changes because of complaints from certain quarters.

"No ... We cannot satisfy everybody. There is no such thing as people choosing their

own judges.

"There would be no law if this was allowed. In such a case, I too would like to have a special judge whenever I have to face the court," he said after a Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting.

Dr Mahathir said that some people tended to see judges as being in one faction or another.

"I am disappointed with this because it tarnishes the image of our judiciary ... and they (people who do this) are the ones who say the image of the

judiciary should be protected.

"They are also the ones who categorise judges as being qualified and not qualified," he added.

Asked about the view that Acting Lord President Tan Sri Hamid Omar should not head the tribunal as there may be a conflict of interest because he was next in line, the Prime Minister said:

"The next person will also move up ... what is important is whether we think that the judiciary is qualified or not."