

KING TO PICK TRIBUNAL MEMBERS SAYS PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — The Yang di-Pertuan Agong will decide on the composition of the tribunal to be set up to determine the position of the five Supreme Court judges suspended today.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the King had agreed to the representation by Acting Lord President Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Omar to set up the tribunal.

"His Majesty will be advised on this (the composition of the tribunal) . . . it is the rule," he told reporters at Parliament House.

"The setting up of the new tribunal will depend on what the law requires us to do."

On whether it was possible for the current tribunal (deliberating on the position of suspended Lord President Tun Salleh Abas) to hear the cases of the five judges, Dr Mahathir said: "The existing tribunal has now become the defendants.

"Obviously these (five) judges cannot carry on anymore because they have already made a stand.

"Eventually, of course there must be new judges."

Dr Mahathir said the suggestion to suspend the five was made by the Acting Lord President as required by the law.

"Only two persons can recommend to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong (to suspend the judges) — one is the Prime Minister and the other the Lord President after consultation with the Prime Minister."

On whether a date had been fixed for setting up the tribunal, he said: "No, it is not necessary."