

PM: No need for special court

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— The Government sees no need to set up a special court to deal with bankruptcy cases, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"Our problem is that there are so many cases pending in the courts, not just bankruptcy cases.

"What we need is to in-

crease the number of courts, prosecutors and investigators to reduce the backlog of cases.

"To have a special court for bankrupts will only divert staff from the existing courts."

He said the Government had not received the proposals by Bank Negara to tighten loopholes in the

Bankruptcy Act.

Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Jaafar Hussein had said last month that the days were numbered for wealthy Malaysians who look to bankruptcy as a way out of having to pay back their loans.

"We are looking at introducing laws which have been passed in Pakistan

and Sri Lanka to deal with such people," he had told reporters after releasing Bank Negara's 1989 annual report.

Sri Lanka had just passed a law which empowers a special court to make "rich" bankrupt businessmen pay their debts, for example, through selling off their property.