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MAHATHIR READY TO BE SUED BY BAR COUNCIL

Mahathir - lawyers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad reiterated today that the Bar Council had lied about Malaysia's legal system to the outside world over the dismissal of former Lord President Tun Salleh Abas.

In this respect, the Prime Minister said **he was prepared to go to court to prove** this point if the Bar Council intended to **sue him over this issue.**

+If they (Bar Council) want to summon (me), 1st them summon.. does not matter. We abide by the law,+ he said when asked to comment on yesterday's call by the Bar Council to him to substantiate his allegation.

Bar Council President Manjeet Singh Dhillion also denied that the Council had spread lies about the country's judiciary locally and overseas.

The Prime Minister said he had evidence from what was conveyed to him by the American Lawyers Association pertaining to **the Bar Council's** allegations on the issue.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with state and divisional Umno leaders here, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Bar Council had claimed that the government had **thrown out** the Lord President. -- more

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Stressing that the government had in **fact-no power to sack** the Lord President, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that such power was vested with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong **who received advice from a special Tribunal.**

The Prime Minister said the Bar Council did not give the complete details on the removal of **Tun Salleh to the American association.**

**He** said the Bar Council did not talk about the move **by five. Supreme Court Judges to obstruct the process of the law by attempting to stop the Tribunal's report from reaching the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.**

According to the Prime Minister, the Bar Council **also did not inform** the American Lawyers Association about its move to remove Lord President Tun Hamid Omar.

+By right they should say the truth about what had happened and the reasons for it,+ Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

He said the Bar Council had in fact interfered with the legal system and not the government.

This could be seen from its move to remove Tun Hamid, he added. -- Bernama

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