

CNS1090

UPE 10-11 00180 EFl.69

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PM ADVISES THE BAR COUNCIL TO PUT ITS HOUSE IN ORDER FIRST

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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today advised the Bar Council to put its house in order before trying to find fault with others. (P)

The Prime Minister said that the council frequently stressed upon the government to uphold the rule of law while on the other hand the council itself did not adhere to the law.

Winding the debate on the final day of the Umno general assembly here, he criticised the council for not abiding by the law when trying to remove Lord President Tun Abdul Hamid Omar from his post through contempt of court proceedings.

Such a process was not provided for under the Constitution and they as I earned lawyers should be aware of this, he said.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir challenged the council to point to the provision in the law that states that a judge could be removed through this process. -- more

♥10/11/21-26MST

CNS1091

UPE 10-11 00203 EFl70

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He also criticised former Lord President Tun Suffian Hashim who had supported the stand taken by the council to call on the government to administer in accordance with the rule of law.

The Prime Minister also chided Tun Suffian for his statement that US President George Bush would be envious of the power held by him (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir).

Speaking to reporters later, the Prime Minister said that he was confident that the Bar Council would twist and turn the statements made regarding the body at the general assembly to other associations in the world especially the US.

+This is certainly their style... we should not compromise any more in this matter, +he said.

Referring to the amendment to the Legal Profession Act 1976 to ensure that the council did not infringe their rights and freedom, he said that the matter would be conducted in accordance with the law.

+We will not do anything that will contravene the Constitution or the law... we certainly practise the rule of law... the one who does not is the Bar Council, +he said. -- more

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In his speech which took over an hour, the Prime Minister said that government officers would not be allowed to be active in politics as suggested by a delegate during the debate.

He said that the administrative system would be affected if administrators were allowed to be active in politics.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also stressed the need for Umno leaders to strive further to strengthen the party by providing excellent service to members and the people so that the party would remain in power. -- Bernama