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MAHATHIR BLASTS BAR COUNCIL FOR NOT RECOGNISING TUN HAMID

Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 ⁹² (Bernama) -- Prime Minister ² Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad said today the move by the Bar Council to retain its resolution on not recognising Lord President Tun Abdul Hamid was tantamount to not recognising the country's judicial system as a whole.

+How can they continue to go to court if they are adamant about not recognising Tun Hamid as Lord President,+ he said.

Questioning the Bar Council's stand, Dr Mahathir said it wanted an independent judiciary in this country but acted as though every judicial appointment would have to be decided by it.

+Do judges have to abide by them,+ he asked.

The Bar Council had all along been talking about an independent judiciary but the action of the council itself was not democratic, he added.

He told reporters this when asked to comment on the move by the Bar Council to retain its no confidence resolution in Tun Abdul Hamid adopted in 1988. -- more

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Mahathir 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The resolution was retained at the Bar Council's annual general meeting here today.

Dr Mahathir said the Bar Council's attitude seemed to show that every judicial appointment would have to have its prior permission and consent.

He said if the Bar Council's permission was needed for the appointment of a judge then all laws including the Federal Constitution would have to be amended.

+Then after this there will be two parties implementing the legal system in this country -- the council and the judiciary,+ he said.

Earlier Dr Mahathir launched the International Polo Champion Cup 1992 organised by the Royal Malaysian Polo Association (RMPA) and unveiled its logo. -- Bernama

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