

Dr M: Council doesn't recognise judiciary

NSunT 15 MAR 1992

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Bar Council's decision to uphold its 1989 resolution of no confidence in Tun Abdul Hamid Omar as Lord President means it does not recognise the entire judicial system in the country, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the decision meant that the Council did not recognise the appointment of Hamid as Lord President and therefore they did not respect the judiciary.

"As such, I do not understand how they can go to the courts," he said.

He was speaking to re-

porters after opening the International Polo championship organised by the Royal Malaysian Polo Association at the Bukit Kiara Country Club.

Dr Mahathir said the council's decision made it appear that the appointment of the Lord President had to be subjected to approval by the Bar Council.

"If this be the case, then we might have to amend the constitution or even formulate a new one.

"I do not know for how long they will not recognise the appointment of the Lord President.

"We do not know whether it will be until Hamid retires or they might not even recognise the next appointed Lord President.

"It appears that we have to seek their approval. If this is the case, we might as well change the constitution," he said.

Dr Mahathir said he did not understand how the Bar Council could talk about democracy and respect for the independence of the judiciary.

"How can the judiciary be independent if the Bar Council wants to decide who is to be Lord President," he said.