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# PM: We won't waste time on Bar Council

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ALOR STAR: The Government does not intend to step in to rectify the situation in the Bar Council, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister felt it would be a "waste of time" setting up a mechanism to deal with it.

"Such people are not useful to society ... we need not be concerned about them," he told newsmen on arrival at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport here.

Dr Mahathir was asked whether Malaysia planned to emulate the Singapore Government's action of setting up a special parliamentary select committee in 1985 to question the Law Society Council which had made allegations against the judiciary.

The committee was headed by then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and among those questioned in the proceedings which were telecast live

was Law Society president Francis Seow.

Dr Mahathir said Malaysia need not follow other countries.

Asked whether the council's latest stance affected the image of the Malaysian judiciary internationally, he said:

"The Government has always accorded the judiciary independence.

"The Bar Council seems to be the one which wants to control the judiciary."

On relations with Australia, Dr Mahathir said the Government did not plan to protest against the film *Turtle Beach*.

"But it would be very difficult to be cordial with the Australian people, who are fond of lying and ridiculing others," he said, but stressed that the Australian Government was not involved.

Dr Mahathir, here with his wife for a breaking fast ceremony at the Masjid Meleleh in Kodiang, left for Kuala Lumpur later last night.

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