

Dr Mahathir: Menteri Besar free to meet respective Rulers

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LANGKAWI, Sun. — Menteri Besar can seek an audience with their respective Rulers to explain why the Government is proposing to amend the Federal constitution to remove the Rulers' immunity from criminal prosecution.

"It is up to their discretion to seek the audience. We have no problems with that," Datuk Seri Dr Ma-

hathir Mohamad said after inspecting the progress of development projects in this resort island.

The Prime Minister was responding to questions by newsmen who sought his comment on Selangor Menteri Besar Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib's willingness to seek an audience with the Sultan of Selangor.

On the Johor Military Force, he gave an assurance that action would be taken against those found to have abused their position.

"Whether they are JMF or personal staff, action will be taken against those who do not come under the immunity provision of the constitution," he added.

Asked whether the proposed constitutional

changes would be retrospective, Dr Mahathir said this would be studied.

The Prime Minister, who was asked whether the proposed constitutional amendment would make the Rulers' Declaration redundant, said the declaration would be retained although admittedly it was not that effective since some Rulers had refused to sign it.