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Mahathir-Umno

UMNO 'TO MEET RULERS FOR CONSENT ON IMMUNITY

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92 (Bernama) (P) JOHOR BAHRU, D&C, 16 (Bernama) UMNO will explain to the Malay Rulers the proposed constitutional amendment to remove their immunity and secure their consent to it, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir, who is UMNO president, 'told a press conference here that **the party however**', had not decided whether to have audience with the Rulers' **as a group or separately.**

UMNO had also not decided yet whether to have its audience with the Rulers before or after the special session of Parliament scheduled for Jan' 18, 19- and 20 to deal with the constitutional amendment, he said.

+Some feel that we should have a meeting of the Conference of Rulers where we table the proposed amendment 'and seek their consent to it and then we bring it to Parliament.

+Others are of the opinion that we can bring it to Parliament first. We shall consider which option, + he said.'

Dr Mahathir said there was also no decision on the matter at today's Cabinet meeting. --- more

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Mahathir-Umno 2 (last) Johor Baharu

In the context of the proposed constitutional amendment, matters affecting the states would be dealt with by the respective state governments, Dr Mahathir said.

On the other hand, matters pertaining to criminal offences are under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, he said.

Asked whether certain rulers had already given their backing to the proposed amendment, Dr Mahathir said the Sultan of Selangor had stated his support for it.

So did some other rulers, though indirectly; he said.

Asked, why only now did he want to seek to remove the Rulers' immunity, Dr Mahathir said the move was necessary as the people's general feeling was that they wanted 'change because +beating up the commoner+ was no longer acceptable today.

+As the leader of a democratic nation elected by the people I have a duty to reflect the views and the wishes of the people. In general, what is being done gets all the support of the majority, + he said. -- Bernama