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Mahathir - Rulers '11

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS NOT AIMED AT DOING AWAY WITH MONARCHY

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JOHOR BAHRU, Dec 16 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad stressed today the proposal to amend the Federal Constitution is not aimed at doing away with the monarchy system in this country.

The Prime Minister said the Rulers would be retained but their immunity would be removed to save the people from irresponsible actions through abuse of power.

+I hope the move we are taking will bring good to all. There is no intention to do away with the monarchy system. This has been Umno's stand from the beginning. ...we want the monarchy system as it represented the Malay identity. ...our culture,+ Dr Mahathir, who is also the Umno President said.

+We don't wish to drop our culture to the extent of losing our directions and not knowing who we are. But what we want is a system of monarchy which is of benefit to the Rulers and the people and this we can have,+ he said when addressing about 1,000 Umno leaders from all 18 divisions in Johor at Saujana, the residence of Johor Menteri Besar.

Earlier the Prime Minister had a two-hour closed door meeting with members of the Johor Umno Liaison Committee. -- more

16/12/20-27MST

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Mahathir - Rulers 2 Johor Baharu

UMNO adopted' this stand not because it wanted to do away with the system of monarchy but power had been abused and this power had to be taken away that is immunity, from prosecution, he said.

+If we are not prepared to criticise when something is wrong, we are at fault,+ he said.

The Prime Minister said that also from the aspect of Islam it was clear there should not be any immunity as in Islam everyone was bound by the law and no one was above the other.

From the aspect of Islam and also morally everyone was bound by the law and there is nothing that is not governed by law, he said.

He could be the Prime Minister, if he did wrong, he would be subjected to the law, Dr Mahathir said.

+This is the situation in our country and we should retain and give meaning to the fact that the law protects everyone and no one was above the law.+

Dr Mahathir said even without such immunity it did not mean the Rulers were no longer Rulers. -- more

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Mahathir - Rulers 3 Johor Baharu

The Prime Minister, by way of example, said the Queen of England had less powers and had to pay taxes and so on but then she was still Queen.

As such the Prime Minister said, the Rulers and the monarchy system would remain even though the government made the amendment;

+It did not mean with the removal of the immunity, we no longer respect the Rulers: We will respect the Rulers 'as Rulers. But if they, for instance, slap us, we have a place to complain. This is what we are going to amend... so there will be no problem and I hope the Rulers will agree.+

+It's true that some 'feel' that since the incident only happened in Johor the matter should be rectified only in Johor but can we have such laws only for Johor? the Prime Minister asked.

Dr Mahathir said the laws should apply to all and the proposed amendment was meant for all and he expressed the hope that the Rulers would accept the amendments as the Rulers would not commit anything wrong and if they did not wish to do wrong then why should there be immunity. -- more

♥16/12/21-00MST

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Mahathir-rulers 4 Johor Baharu

+We have not done anything wrong. Why do we need immunity...there is no need for immunity. What we want to take away is something that is not used, not something that is used,+ he added.

Everyone knew that -the incident was not the first, he said, adding:
+But I myself admit I was wrong because when it happened in the past, I did not take effective action.' Maybe, to advise, .. which had been tried before but had not been effective.+

Dr Mahathir said he regarded it as his own mistake and he could not fault others because +we have position, **status and power** and did not use that power. ..+

+That is why we find that officers, when asked to do something that should not be done, do it because they do not have protection from **those** with more authority. If they do not do it, they may be faulted and in -this situation, if the people who are really in authority do not have a firm stand, the subordinate officers could not possibly have a firm stand.

+So, it is our fault. I feel the most at fault. That is why I have to make a statement to give the people protection.+ -- more

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Mahathir-rulers 5 Johor Baharu

Dr Mahathir stressed that such incidents had repeatedly occurred because those in authority had not made a statement that such things could not be allowed.

This had caused a problem because the Malays did not like to have bad relations among themselves and with their own Rulers.

+But if (it is) wrong, we have to say it is wrong. We can bear not saying it time and again but one day we have to say it, . . . that this is wrong. If we get scolded, so' he it. This is a risk, or else there is no need to be prime minister...+ he said to applause from those present.

He said the Malays did not like such a situation to continue but God willing and with the people's support he was confident that the Rulers would respect the people's wishes,

Dr Mahathir also dwelt at length on the history of the Rulers in Europe.

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Mahathir-rulers 6 (last) Johor Baharu

Dr Mahathir said today's meeting was not planned because of the incident but was arranged long ago and it was a coincidence that he had to attend a function organised by the Malay Chamber of Commerce and Industry here tonight.

He reminded all parties in Umno of the importance of a common stand in giving 100 per cent support to whatever action taken by Johor Umno.

+Let us fight together for the good of the Rulers and Malaysia which is well-known as a peaceful country today. In this world there is no country as peaceful as Malaysia despite it having various races and religions,+ he said,

He added that it was through this peace that the country continued to develop and enjoy many things and success could be achieved if the people were united. -- Bernama

♥16/12/22-04MST