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Meeting
PM TO CHAIR UMNO MEETING ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is Umno president, will chair a meeting for Umno divisional heads and information chiefs to explain the proposed constitutional amendments to remove the immunity of the Malay Rulers from prosecution.

Umno Secretary-General Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said today the meeting would be held on Wednesday at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

Speaking to reporters at the Parliament House lobby, he said Umno would also be launching a nation-wide information campaign to explain the issue to party leaders at various levels.

He said a clear explanation on the issue would help party leaders understand it comprehensively and they in turn could explain the matter to the people.

The explanation is important as it will help get rid of various misconceptions surrounding the issue, he added. -- more

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Mohamed said the information campaign would be handled by Umno information chief Datuk Hussein Ahmad who will be assisted by Umno state information chiefs.

The Information Department will help in the campaign particularly in Sarawak where Umno does not have any branches, he added.

Mohamed said the government's aim in amending the Federal Constitution to do away with the immunity granted to the Malay Rulers did not mean that it wanted to abolish the constitutional monarchy in the country.

As long as Umno is around, the party will continue to defend and uphold the constitutional monarchy, he said.

He said he fully supported the government's and party's stand on the issue and suspicions of certain parties regarding his stand were unfounded. -- more

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He said the suspicions were probably due to his close relationship with the Sultan of Johor and his seat on the nine-member Johor Council of Regency.

Mohamed said his relationship with the Johor Sultan would always remain special and very close despite the present situation.

He also said that the Johor Council of Regency would hold its monthly meeting during the first week of January but he had no knowledge of the agenda.

He pointed out that the Council only had authority over customs and traditional practices and the appointment of the Ruler. -- Bernama