

CNS8150

R GE 29-12 00195 'ED553

aae

Mahathir - immunity

UMNO TO HOLD UNOFFICIAL MEETING WITH RULERS

bm

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec-29 (Bernama)-- UMNO will seek an unofficial meeting with the Malay Rulers in connection with the proposal to amend the constitution to end the immunity of rulers from prosecution, Prime Minister Dastuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said.. the meeting between Umno President, Deputy President and Vice-Presidents and the rulers might be held on Jan 9. However the venue had yet to be decided.

The meeting will be held before the draft proposal on the amendment was submitted to the Rulers' Council 'on Jan 16, he told reporters after visiting the 'Information Ministry at Angkasapuri here.

+We feel that we can explain to the rulers the intention of the move so that they would not doubt our action,+ he said.

He said the government had no plans to abolish the institution of rulers, only their immunity and rights relating to immunity, he said. Dr Mahathir said the Attorney-General had prepared the draft on the constitutional amendment, but the government had not studied it.--more

♥29/12/16-12MST

CNS8173

U GE 29-12 00176 ED554

aae

Mahathir - immunity 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said at a meeting between the menteri besar (including Kelantan MB) and him and the Attorney-general last week, they had outlined details of the amendment and based on the discussions the Attorney-General had prepared a draft.

The draft would be discussed by the Cabinet before the unofficial meeting and discussion with the rulers, he said.

The Prime Minister said in general the rulers did not reject the government's proposal: They only wanted more details on the provisions to be amended.

He declined to say whether the immunity to be withdrawn would include the rulers' immunity from civil suit;

Dr Mahathir said matters to be amended were related to the rulers' immunity from the law and other provisions, which if not amended, would nullify the amendment relating to immunity.

They included provision in the constitution relating to Sedition Act 'but at the moment_ the government did not plan to amend the Sedition act, he said.--more

♥29/12/16-50MST

CNS8189

U GE 29-12 001'77 ED556

aae

Mahathir - immunity 3 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the Umnd supreme council would discuss the draft 'at its meeting on Jan 9.

On his tomorrow's meeting with Umno leaders at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), he said it was 'aimed at explaining to them the action to be taken by the government on the immunity issue.

He said this was necessary so that they would not doubt the government's action because there might be others who would try to confuse them.

Asked on the distribution of unsigned pamphlets asking the people to attend a rally in the compound of Istana Besar in Johor Baharu on Jan 8, the Prime Minister said: + It is not our (government's) work, we did not ask anybody to assembly there. +

He said the government did not know if the rally' had any connection with the Istana.

+ Probably there are people making use of the situation for their political interest, + he said. --more

♥29/12/17-16MST

CNS8217
U GE 29-12 00155 ED557
aae

Mahathir - immunity 4 Kuala Lumpur

Asked for his views on the proposed gathering, Dr Mahathir said 'the people should not break the law.

'If we allow one section to break the law without taking any action; the other section may ask why' - they too cannot "break the law," he added.

On 'whether Umno plans to tour the country to explain the proposed amendment to the people, he said if necessary, Umno could do that.

'The people has the right to know what is actually happening. If they (Semangat 46) want to have a road show they can have it. We will see whose show is bigger,' he said.

The Prime Minister said his six-hour visit to the Angkasapuri was to see the progress of the ministry in the field of communications.

He was satisfied with the progress of the ministry.--more

▼29/12/17-35MST

CNS8255
U GE 29-12 00172 ED558
aae

Mahathir - immunity 5 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah, spent, six hours at the Angkasapuri with senior officials and staff of the ministry, including those from Bernama, Finas and Filem Negara.

The Prime Minister opened the Electronics Museum at the complex before having his new year speech recorded at Wisma TV, while Dr Siti Hasmah opened the Rumah Wartawan and' dan Rumah Puspanita.

Later Dr Mahathir opened the Transmission Operation Centre and launched the FM Stereo service to the whole nation at Auditorium Besar.

Dr Mahathir and his wife also participated in the first segment of 'The Great Malaysian Breakfast' for the 'Selamat Pagi Malaysia' programme.

The then witnessed the Konsert Perdana 'Untukmu Malaysia' performed by Datuk S.M Salim, Yusni Hamid, Roy, Johari Teh, Ramziela, Shereen, Tushee, Carol Ormilla.

Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat presented a 'Radio Hat' to the Prime Minister after the launching of the FM Stereo.--Bernama