

# PM: Rulers to **lose** right to **pardon themselves**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Rulers will lose part of their power of clemency under the proposed amendments to the Constitution, Prime Minister Datuk **Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad** said.

He said it would also include an amendment on the provision regarding sedition in the Constitution.

Dr Mahathir said these consequential amendments were essential to ensure the effectiveness of the amendments to remove the Rulers' immunity.

"The Rulers will no longer have the right to **pardon** themselves, immediate members or their children," he told newsmen after meeting Umno leaders at the Putra World Trade Centre here

yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the power of clemency would be moved to other parties but he said the Rulers would continue to sit on the Pardons Board in respect of other cases.

The **changes** to sedition laws, he **said**, would only be in the Constitution and not in the Sedition Act.

He said amendments to **provisions** relating to sedition was necessary as any allegations against the Rulers who committed any **offences** came under the definition of sedition.

"If a person goes to the **police** station to lodge a report that a Ruler has committed an **offence**, that in itself is sedition," he said.

Dr Mahathir said if the police report was sedi-

tious, it would prevent the people from making reports on any criminal **offences** committed by the Rulers.

"As such we have to amend and abolish the provision on sedition in the Constitution," he said.

Dr Mahathir said there was no need to seek the consent of the Rulers to table any Bill for debate in Parliament but agreed it needed to have **the** assent of the Rulers after the Bill was passed.

He also said the draft on the **proposed** amendments had been completed and would be studied by the Government and Umno.

Dr Mahathir reiterated the Government had no intention of abolishing the royal institution.