

# Council opposed to A-G heading the Bar

KUALA LUMPUR: The appointment of the Attorney-General as the head of the Bar Council will amount to interference of the judiciary by the Government, Bar Council vice-chairman Zainur Zakaria said yesterday.

He said the role of the Attorney-General was merely to become a chairman during the Bar Council's annual general meeting and not to head the council.

"The Government may have the majority in Parliament to amend the law (to enable the Attorney-General to become the chairman of the Bar Council) but it would be an interference to the independence of the judiciary," he said.

He was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Wednesday that it was not unusual for the Attorney-General to head the Bar Council.

Dr Mahathir said that in many other countries the Attorney-General was the chairman of the Bar Council.

"It is wrong to say that in the past the Attorney-General was the head of the Bar Council because Article 44 (3) of the Advocates and Solicitors Ordinance 1948 provided that the council elect its own chairman," he said.

Encik Zainur also said that the Bar Council had never been a political party and that people who accused it of being so should furnish proof.

"Everytime we took a stand it was in the interest of upholding of the law," he said.

He said the Bar Council welcomed criticisms made against it but allegations should be substantiated with some proof.