

Dr M: Talks with Bar Council no use

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LABUAN, Fri. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said it was a waste of time for the Government to have discussions with the Bar Council on its plan to strip the country's Rulers of their immunity.

He said the council had decided to oppose even before the Government could take a stand on the matter.

The Prime Minister said the council considered itself an opposition to the ex-

tent that whatever the Government did must be opposed.

"I will be most surprised if ever the council agrees to what the Government is doing," he told a Press conference here.

Dr Mahathir was asked to comment on the council's statement yesterday that the organisation of lawyers opposed the Government's plans to strip the Rulers of their immunity from the law.

The Prime Minister said the council's stand did not come as a surprise at all.

"Having a discussion with them is no use, a waste of time," he said.

Asked on Usno's move to continue to exist as a political party, he said it was a good move.

"I think Usno should continue to exist as a political party, in name," he said.

At its general assembly in Kota Kinabalu yesterday, delegates passed a resolu-

tion to stay as a political party.

Datu Amir Kahar Tun Mustapha was confirmed president. He was acting head of the party since his father Tun Datu Mustapha Datu Harun resigned in February 1991 to join Umno.

Dr Mahathir also said the Barisan Nasional was always prepared for state elections in Sabah whenever the Parti Bersatu Sabah government dissolves the State Assembly.