

U GE 18-01 00181 EA721

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Parliament-Mahathir (advice)
RULERS IGNORED ADVICE OF PRIME MINISTERS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 18 (Bernama) -- The Rulers have ignored the advice of all the three previous prime ministers Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister told the Dewan Rakyat that the prime ministers had, in their capacity as advisers of the Rulers, repeatedly advised them but they were ignored.

"I know that such advice has been made because they were repeatedly reported in the Cabinet meetings and Umno Supreme Council meetings," he said when tabling the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 at the special sitting of the Dewan Rakyat today.

He said the late Tun Hussein Onn (the third prime minister), had in a written speech to a meeting of the Conference of Rulers, attended only by the Rulers, advised the Rulers against what they should not have done.

But the advice was ineffective and the Rulers continued to engage in those acts, in some cases to a greater degree, he said. -- more

▼18/01/20-52MST

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"What they have never done during the British time and in the early days of independence, they do now on a large scale," Mahathir said.

He said advice was given behind closed door and if it was not effective nothing could be done.

Although the Prime Minister and Menteri Besar report the matter to the Umno Supreme Council on the problems faced by them, the public was not informed.

As such the public would not know the problems faced by the government.

Most people think that the system of Constitutional Monarchy was progressing smoothly, he said.--more

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Only a small fraction of the people knew it and they were unhappy with the actions of the rulers.

Mahathir said as such it was necessary to amend the sedition Act to enable members of parliaments to "advise" the rulers in their speeches.

Articles 63 and 72 will enable members of parliament to give advice to protect the position of the rulers and at the same time ensure that the institution of rulers was adequately protected by the constitution, he said.--Bernama

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