

PM: Govt will go to court if Bill is disputed

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PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government was prepared to go to court if the tabling of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill in Parliament yesterday was disputed.

"The problem faced today is the result of the opinion that Rulers can disregard the government of the people. The deception and lack of consensus have taken place because advice has been ignored," he said when tabling the Bill for second reading.

He said the Rulers interpreted "advice" from the government in the general sense and believed they could therefore accept or ignore it.

He, however, added that if the Rulers continued to disregard the advice, a government based on parliamentary democracy could not exist effectively in its true entity.

"This is why the government has brought the amendments to the Dewan. If this process is disputed, then a decision could be made by the court.

"As a government which holds firmly the rule of law, we will abide by the decision of the court. At the same time, the matter should not be seen from just the legal aspect but also from the political," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister said despite signs of rejection, he hoped the Rulers would accept and approve the amendments by the time the Bill was passed by both Dewans.