

CNS0624

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Mahathir - Rulers

NO MAJOR CHANGES TO CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL, MAHATHIR

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 11 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight there will be no major change to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill approved by Parliament recently.

Expressing satisfaction over the consent given by the Rulers, the Prime Minister said changes sought by them referred to matters pertaining to the proposed special court.

"I have read the report on the Rulers' decision and there is no substantial change, only some corrections to methods, + he told reporters after attending the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial dinner here.

"The Rulers cannot be brought to the ordinary courts but only to the Special Court to be set up."

"This has been our intention...not to bring them to the ordinary court," he said. -- more

▼11/02/23-46MST

CNS0627

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Mahathir - Rulers 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said other provisions in the Constitution (Amendment) Bill had been accepted by the Rulers.

"I feel relieved," he said.

He said the Rulers involved in offences would be tried only in the Special Court and there would be no appeals and no hearings in the lower courts.

The Prime Minister said the sentences to be imposed on errant Rulers upon conviction in the Special Court would be that provided for under the normal law of the land.

Responding to a question, he said all privileges not gazetted would be withdrawn.

He also said the Cabinet would decide on the date for the convening of the special session of Parliament to debate the Bill returned to Parliament by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

Dr Mahathir also stressed that Umno never had any problems with the istana.

Asked whether he considered the issue resolved, he said: "To the extent we wanted, it has indeed been resolved." -- more

▼11/02/23-56MST

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Mahathir - Rulers 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Speaking at the function, Dr Mahathir praised the late Tunku for coming up with a system of administration for the country which had ensured harmony and the wellbeing of the people.

The farsightedness of the first Prime Minister had made Malaysia a model to other countries.

"We find that many political scientists and heads of government coming to Malaysia to learn from our experience in moulding a nation from diverse communities," he said.

"The country is indebted to Tunku. He is the one who invented the system which we have inherited," Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said co-operation among the various races was pioneered by the Tunku with the setting up of the Alliance which later became the Barisan Nasional.

He urged the people to donate to the memorial which had collected RM13,827,302 so far.

The dinner was held in honour of those who had contributed to the memorial launched in October 1991. -- Bernama

▼12/02/00-06MST