

Dr M

relieved

that

issue is

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settled

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, expressing relief that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993 issue is settled, said the modification sought by the Rulers was not substantial.

"I saw the changes that are being sought and am satisfied that there is no substantial change but the modification is only on procedure.

"The modification is for the provision on the special court whereby it specifies that Rulers who have committed offences cannot be tried in any other court except in the special court," he said in response to reporters' questions after attending a Tunku Abdul Rahman memorial dinner.

He said cases involving the Rulers could not be heard in lower courts and the decision of the special court would be final.

"A Ruler can be prosecuted only in the special court following which the judges will make a decision. There is no appeal," he said, adding that the Government from the outset wanted it that way.

When asked about the other provisions in the Bill, he said the Rulers had accepted them.

On the Parliament meeting to debate the Bill for a second time, he said the Government would soon make a decision when to give notice to the Dewan Rakyat Speaker.

The Government needed to give Parliament 28 days' notice for a special sitting.

Asked about the withdrawal of privileges and perks which are not allocated under law, he said the decision stays.

He said since the objective to remove the immunity of the Rulers had been fulfilled, the Government felt that the issue was resolved.

He said the relations with the Rulers would remain cordial.