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Mahathir - throne '''

KELANTAN THRONE ISSUE LIKELY TO GO TO SPECIAL COURT

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KOTA BAHARU, March 19 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan throne issue is likely to be taken to the Special Court if the state government is unable to resolve it on its own, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the question should be resolved by the state government and if it could not do this, the Federal Government would take whatever action provided for under the law.

"We have agreed to have the Special Court for the Rulers and if there is any case brought against the Rulers then there is the court set up by the Federal Government," he told reporters after chairing a meeting of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee.

He said the Special Court (set up through a recent amendment to the Federal Constitution) had the jurisdiction to decide on a dispute involving the Rulers and the law.

"However, if the matter can be resolved at state level, fine," he said.

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♥19/03/18-42MST

CNS0295

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Mahathir - throne 2 Kota Baharu

Dr Mahathir said if the case was brought to the Special Court, the Attorney General would decide whether there was a case or otherwise and if a case was established the question of the heir to the throne would be heard by the court.

Asked whether the Constitution Amendment Bill had been assented to by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah, he said the Bill would become law after 30 days from the date it was approved by the Senate.

"I hope the Yang di-Pertuan Agong will sign the Bill for the person who referred the Bill back to the Dewan Rakyat was the Yang di-Pertuan Agong himself," Dr Mahathir said.

The validity of the appointment of Sultan Ismail Petra as Sultan of Kelantan was raised by Arau MP Shahidan Kassim who claimed that a cousin of Sultan Ismail, Tengku Ibrahim had more right to the throne.

Shahidan claimed that Tengku Ibrahim's father, Tengku Indera Petra was the elder brother of the present sultan's father, Tengku Yahya Petra. Moreover the mother of Tengku Indera was of royal blood. -- more

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.. Mahathir - throne 3 (last) Kota Baharu

.. Dr Mahathir also expressed regret that imams and mosques were being used by the Kelantan Government to serve party interests.

.. Dr Mahathir spoke of his own experience during Friday prayers today when the imam was replaced and a youngster delivered the khutbah which was more of a political lecture.

.. "I don't know whether I came for prayers at a mosque or for a political function. I very much regret such methods of making use of mosques and religion to serve the interest of political parties," he said.

.. Commenting on the 'state ban on the use of Hotel Perdana and Perdana Beach Resort by Federal Ministers, Dr Mahathir said this was surprising because it was made by a government led by people "well versed in religion. "

.. "That is money borrowed from the Federal Government but Federal Ministers are not allowed to stay there,+ he said,

.. "Menteri Besar Kelantan (Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat) should understand that when we are indebted to others we'll not do such things ," he said. --  
Bernama

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