

CNS2417

R GE 25-03 00200 EA514

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Repeat, correcting headline

Mahathir-action (With pix)

GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION IF ANYONE EXCEEDS THE LAW

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93 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, March 25 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hinted that the government would take action against anyone who went beyond the law in disputing the validity of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1993.

"Whoever disputes it... if they commit an offence, they will find out whether we will take action or not," he told reporters at his Hari Raya open house at Seri Perdana here.

The Prime Minister was commenting on Parti Semangat 46's opposition to the bill which has received the Royal Assent from the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Sultan Azlan Shah.

The bill, to remove the legal immunity of the Malay Rulers, is expected to be gazetted at the end of this week, making it law.

Passed by the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara on March 9 and 10, respectively, it was submitted to the King on March 16.

On Tuesday, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohammad Zahir Ismail said the bill, signed by the King, had been returned to the house. -- more

▼25/03/14-55MST

CNS2421

R GE 25-03 00164EA515

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Mahathir-action 2 Kuala Lumpur

"Dr Mahathir said the issue over the constitutional amendments had been settled and the bill need not be disputed because it had received the Royal Assent.

"We are very happy and grateful that the issue has been settled peacefully... there are no disturbances, the issue was settled in a good way," he added.

To Semangat 46's stand, he said: "Semangat 46 has only a few people... they are the minority, what people sometimes call the lunatic fringe."

Yesterday, Law Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said no one, including the Rulers, could dispute the validity of the bill because the amendments were made in accordance with procedure.

Dr Mahathir also said the Sultan of Kelantan's repudiation of the consent given to the bill had no impact.

He said the procedures for the creation of the Special Court to try errant Rulers were being drawn up. -- more

▼25/03/15-07MST

CNS2422

R GE 25-03 00100 EA5.1.G

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Mahathir-action 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Syed Hamid said yesterday that the Lord President would draft the procedures but there was no immediate need for them as the court could follow existing court procedures for the time being.

Dr Mahathir said Hari Raya celebrations this year appeared to be more enjoyable judging from the stream of people from all sections of society who came to his open house since 1.0 am today.

"More people are coming each year... 60 to 65 per cent of them non-Muslims," he added. -- Bernama

▼25/03/15-07MST