

# Amendment to let rep be a minister

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Constitution will be amended at next month's Dewan Rakyat sitting to allow a state assemblyman to be appointed a minister.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said the proposal would be one of the few amendments to be made during the sitting.

He said one of the proposed amendments relat-

ed to the provision which disallows a minister from being a state assemblyman but permits a Chief Minister to be also an MP.

Speaking to newsmen after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting, Dr Mahathir who is Umno president, said the Government intended to correct this matter.

On May 25, Dr Mahathir had said that the Constitution might be amended to allow Sabah Umno deputy liaison chief Tun Datu Mustapha

Datu Harun to remain a state assemblyman while holding a federal minister's post.

Tun Mustapha's appointment as Sabah Affairs Minister announced on May 19 came under fire from the PBS Government who called for his resignation from the state legislative assembly in line with the Constitution. Mustapha is the Usukan assemblyman.

Dr Mahathir said there was no need for a special Dewan Rakyat sitting to

make the amendments.

He said another proposed amendment seeks to disallow the holding of by-elections on the eve of a general election.

Under the proposed amendments, he said the Government wanted to ensure that no by-election is held within the last two years before the next general election is due.

Asked whether the proposed amendment would be backdated, he quipped: "Not backdated, forward dated."