

17 OCT 1996
Bar Council
BAR COUNCIL CLARIFIES ROLE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Bar Council Malaysia today clarified its role as a body which is largely concerned with issues affecting the law and the administration of justice in the country.

Its vice-president Dr Cyrus V. Das, said in a statement here that although the council's views did not necessarily coincide with that of the government, its stands were meant to develop and improve the system of justice in the country.

Das was responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday that the Bar Council "behaved more like an opposition party" and always disagreed with the government.

Dr Mahathir had said during the question and answer session that it was better for the Bar council to form a political party instead of hiding behind the shield of a professional body.

Dr Mahathir also said that the council often criticised the government overseas.

Das said the Bar Council, in assuming its role, had always been willing to work with the government and the Attorney-General's chambers for the improvement of the country's legal system.

He said the Bar Council, which is also a member to numerous international bodies, enjoyed a high standing in the international legal community as was evident from its being chosen to host the 12th Commonwealth Law Conference in 1999.

The council's presence and participation overseas had enhanced the country's image as a "progressive developing country governed by the rule of law," he said. -- BERNAMA

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