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BAR COUNCIL TOLD NOT TO INTERFERE IN APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES

KUALA LUMPUR, March 24 (Bernama) -- The Bar Council has been reminded not to interfere or question the appointment or promotion of judges as the law and procedures for it are laid out in the Federal Constitution.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ibrahim Ali said members of the Bar Council should read the relevant provisions of the Federal Constitution instead of urging Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed to consult them before the appointments are made.

"Lawyers should realise that anything done outside the requirements of the Constitution may result in the appointments being declared illegal by the Courts," he said when met after sending off Dr Mahathir to Makkah at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport in Subang today.

Ibrahim was commenting on one of the resolutions passed by the Bar Council at its annual general meeting on Saturday.

The Bar Council among others called for a formal inquiry by an independent Royal Commission to investigate allegations of judicial improprieties, intimidation of lawyers by the use of contempt powers and appointment and transfer of judges.

Ibrahim said the government was aware that removing a judge from office entailed very stringent procedures and to ensure the right person is appointed to the superior courts, they must first be appointed Judicial Commissioners for at least two years.

-- BERNAMA

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