

PM: Sultan may have other reasons for rejecting bill

SUN - 6 JUL 2001

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Sultan of Kelantan may have reasons other than his political inclination for refusing to sign the amendment to the state constitution.

"The Sultan of Kedah and Johor too did not sign (the amendment to the Federal Constitution).

"They may have their reasons. But not because of support to a political party," he told reporters after attending a dialogue session with scientists at the Science Convention 2001 here today.

"It (the amendment to Kelantan's constitution) is not like what we did before.

"When we amended the (Federal) Constitution, we did it to prevent the royalty from committing any action which is against the law.

"However, this one (amendment to Kelantan's constitution) is due to anger on certain things."

Mahathir said this when asked to comment on Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat's statement yesterday.

He had stated that the sultan's refusal to sign the amendment must have been the result of being pressured by the ruling party.