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Call to nullify new A-G's appointment

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The Youth movements of the Opposition coalition and several non-governmental organisations today urged Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to declare past announcements made on the appointment of Datuk Abdul Ghani Patail as attorney-general as null and void.

The appointment of the new AG should, they said, only take place after the 12th Yang di-Pertuan Agong has been appointed.

Keadilan deputy Youth chief Saifuddin Nasution Ismail told a Press conference that Article 145(1) of the Federal Constitution has not been invoked to advise the Yang di-Pertuan Agong on the appointment.

"When the announcement on Ghani's appointment was made by Datuk Dr Rais Yatim on Nov 19, the late Yang di-Pertuan Agong was ill," he said after leaders of the Youth movements and NGOs held a meeting at the Keadilan headquarters today.

Saifuddin said the group had also decided to seek an audience with the new Yang di-Pertuan Agong to state their stand that the new AG should be one who is not only qualified and capable but also a fair person.

The group also called on Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim to apologise to the Council of Malay Rulers as his announcement on Ghani's appointment showed contempt for the Constitution, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the council.

"Rais should also apologise to the people because he had created confusion with his statements on Ghani's appointment," he added.

Saifuddin said the group would be sending letters and seek a meeting with Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Zahir Ismail and Opposition leader Datuk Fadzil Mohd Noor over this issue.

"We will also be sending a delegation to meet the Bar Council and the Human Rights Commission.

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