

Council heads may roll, says Mahathir

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PUTRAJAYA: The days of local councillors and council heads acting with impunity, without accountability, may soon be a thing of the past.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad indicated yesterday that the heads of non-performers will roll.

Asked about the performance of the local councils, which have come under fire recently, he said the federal government views seriously the increasing number of complaints against the local

authorities, including allegations of misconduct by their top officials.

"We will have to look into this because there have been a lot of complaints against local councils," Mahathir said after chairing the National Consultative Council meeting here.

He did not rule out the possibility of non-performing representatives being replaced.

"Some representatives want to be popular and do not want to collect taxes, while others are not providing

proper service," he said.

Asked why, more often than not, it took the prime minister himself to spur police and enforcement officers into action, Mahathir said: "That is (an) activity I have to carry out. You can't ask someone to direct someone else who is a very senior officer"

When it was pointed out that there were ministers who were supposed to be in charge, he said: "Yes, but we discuss this in the cabinet. It is a collective decision."