

Dr M: Don't use SMS to declare divorce

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CYRERJAYA: A row over a syariah court ruling that Muslim men can divorce their wives via the short messaging system through their mobile phones has puzzled the prime minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday he was not too keen on the idea of divorce by SMS.

"Nowadays, we can even divorce our wife by sending messages," he said when launching Swedish telecoms giant Ericsson's US\$21 million (RM80 million) regional expertise hub in the

Multimedia Super Corridor

"I am not so keen on that but they say it is perfectly legal, perfectly Islamic. I think that if people want to divorce their wife, they should resort to a much more personal approach than that," he said.

"We hope, of course, that instead of sending messages, you should look at the beautiful wife that you're going to divorce maybe she would cry a bit and you would change your mind."

The Gombak syariah court ruled

on Thursday a divorce declared via SMS was valid, provided it was verified by the court.

East Gombak syariah judge Mohamad Fauzi Ismail ruled that the 18-month marriage between Azida Fazlina Abdul Latif and Shamsudin Latif was annulled when Shamsudin sent Azida Fazlina an SMS stating **"Kalau engkau tak keluar dari rumah mak bapak engkau, jatuh talak tiga."** (If you do not leave your parents' house, you will be divorced).