

Dr M strongman slams 'royal' bill and MB
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Former minister Zainuddin Maidin, a fervent supporter of Dr Mahathir Mohamad has joined the battle over the royal bill with all guns blazing.

In a blog posting today, he opened fire on Johor Menteri Besar Mohamed Khaled Nordin for rushing the amendments to the Housing and Real Property Bill without proper discussion and consultation.

The former information minister said a menteri besar who is sensitive to the people's feelings would have deferred the tabling of the controversial bill.

"He (the MB) would have acknowledged that the power of the people is greater than the power of the monarchy and not proceed with the tabling..." he added in the posting titled "Pindaan yang penting meniadakan peranan raja" (The most important amendment is to do away with the role of the royal).

He also included a subheading, which read: "Rakyat Johor Berkabung Hari Ini". (The people of Johor are mourning today).

Without mincing words, Zainuddin said if the bill is passed today, then the people of Johor would "mourn the calamity which would befall them due to poor leadership."

His comments come in the wake of Mahathir's criticism of the bill and veiled caution to the royals.

This morning, the former premier also expressed concern that the menteri besar would bow to royal pressure.

Who offered the role to sultan?

Zainuddin, who is also a visiting fellow at Universiti Utara Malaysia's Institut Pemikiran Tun Dr Mahathir, also pointed out that the menteri besar's hasty amendments had failed to pacify the people.

"The people continue to object. This is because why should the sultan have a role in state administration? Who offered this role to the sultan?"

"Although the sultan's role is substituted with the state authorities (as a result of the amendments), the people understand that they are led by a person with no calibre?" added the group editor of Utusan Malaysia.

In the absence of consultation before the amendments were made, Zainuddin, who is popularly known as Zam, said the people felt that Khaled had ignored their views.

"The people of Johor feel that they have been betrayed and disrespected," he added.

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