

THE STAR

DATE: 27/03/2008

# Zaid: Need to review state constitutions

The Star - 27/3/2008.

## Certain laws dated a century ago are still in use

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**PUTRAJAYA:** State constitutions that are outdated need to be reviewed to prevent conflicts between the monarchy and the current parliamentary democratic system.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Zaid Ibrahim said some state constitutions dated as far back as the beginning of the last century, and sometimes caused problems.

"That is why there is a need to look at reform," he said. "Sometimes things get complicated because of an old law, but it is still law although it is old. It has to be observed as it is there."

Zaid said the matter had to be discussed to get a consensus, and ways found to harmonise the expectations of the democratic Government.

"We live in an institution with a monarchy with certain powers, so, if there is a conflict, we have to iron it out, but it must be done with consultation," he said, adding that the Attorney-General would look into the review.

Zaid was speaking to reporters on the prob-

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DATUK ZAID IBRAHIM

lems in Terengganu - where the state Ruler and the Federal Government have separate choices for Mentri Besar - after chairing the post-Cabinet meeting here yesterday.

He described the Terengganu problem as a combination of legal and constitutional issues.

Zaid also said the Cabinet reaffirmed yesterday the need for judicial reform, one that would be far-reaching and fundamental.

Stating that he would be submitting a

Cabinet paper in a month's time, he added that he wanted to preserve the institution of the separation of powers, as there would be no meaning in a constitutional government without checks and balances.

"Power will be abused (without checks and balances); we have seen it. I want a corrupt-free, honest government," he said, adding that he wanted to see the judiciary strengthened, with capable people and with integrity.

On the anti-hopping law proposal, Zaid said this had to be studied as it involved constitutional amendments. He believed that party-hopping encouraged corruption and also betrayed the trust of the people who elected the candidates.

On his proposal for the Government to apologise to former Lord President Tun Salleh Abas for his sacking in 1988, Zaid said he had already presented his views to the Cabinet.

"I'm afraid the view still has to be considered. There are many people more experienced, wiser than me.

"So we have to wait for a decision, so I don't want to add anything more yet on the issue, but I have presented my views," he said.