

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	26 AUGUST 2016

# Dr M: I left other powers intact

*The Star - 26/8/2016*

## Some laws passed by Parliament still need King's signature, says ex-PM

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**PETALING JAYA:** Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who apologised for making amendments to the Federal Constitution to limit the powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong claims his move did not invalidate the other powers of the King.

The amendments initiated by Dr Mahathir removes the requirement for the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's assent before a new Act of Parliament comes into force.

"I sincerely apologise for making the amendment as it is open to mis-interpretation.

"It would seem that because of

**There are more than 30 proceedings listed out in the Constitution that still need the Agong's approval.**

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

the amendment, the new National Security Council (NSC) law has become operational even though the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has not signed it," said the former prime minister on his blog yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said the amendment was not for all laws.

He clarified that the amendment did not invalidate the other powers of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, which number more than 30.

"Some laws passed by Parliament will still need the consent and signature of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"In fact there are more than 30 proceedings listed out in the Constitution that still need the Agong's approval frequently without the advice of the Prime Minister," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that among those that still needed the approval

of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong was the declaration of a state of emergency.

He cited Article 150 of the Proclamation of Emergency that states that the powers "to proclaim an emergency solely rests with the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and may not be challenged".

He claimed that there was no mention that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong could only act on the advice of the Prime Minister.

"The Yang di-Pertuan Agong can even promulgate an ordinance which shall have the same force as an Act of Parliament," he said.

Dr Mahathir also claimed that the new NSC Act, that gives the Prime

Minister power similar to that of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, was derogatory to Article 38(4) which states "no law directly affecting the privileges, position, honours or dignities of the Rulers shall be passed without the consent of the Conference of Rulers".

"Effectively the NSC had taken away the power and the right of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

"For this to be done the consent of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and the Conference of Rulers has to be obtained," he said, adding that Article 130 entitled the Yang di-Pertuan Agong to refer the question of the NSC Act's legality to the Federal Court.