

Newspaper	THE SUN
Date	26 AUGUST 2016

Tun M apologises for curtailing king's powers

The Sun - 26/8/2016

PETALING JAYA: Former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (*pix*) yesterday apologised for amending the Federal Constitution that has rendered the consent and signature of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong unnecessary in the passing of laws.

He acknowledged that it was through his action that the controversial National Security Council (NSC) Act became law without royal assent.

"I would like to apologise for the amendment to the Constitution, which made the approval and signature of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong no longer necessary for the legalising of an Act of Parliament.

"It would seem that because of the amendment, the new National Security Law has become operational even though the Yang di-Pertuan Agong has not signed it," he said in his latest blog post yesterday.

Mahathir, however, noted that the amendment does not affect all laws in the country, stressing that some laws passed by Parliament would still



need the consent and signature of the King, including that of declaring a state of emergency.

In 1994, the Mahathir-led government passed amendments to the Constitution, on Article 66(4a), to allow any Bill that has been passed by Parliament to become law within 30 days, regardless of whether the Agong gives his assent.

This had allowed the controversial NSC Bill, for example, to become law on June 7 this year. The Bill provides for the establishment of the NSC, declaration of security areas, and other related matters.

Bar Council Human Rights Committee chairman Andrew Khoo said he was unimpressed by Mahathir's "half-baked" apology, and that it was stretching the imagination to ask Malaysians to believe he did not understand the full extent of his action.

"His reasoning that the amendment did not cover all types of laws beggars belief and is an insult to the intelligence of the Malaysian people.

"He opened the door and Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has taken advantage of it. Who knows when he, or successive PMs, will take advantage of it again," he said when contacted by *theSun*. —by **Amar Shah Mohsen**