



Mahathir at the Dewan Rakyat yesterday. —BERNAMAPIX

Bill not retrospective

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➤ Mahathir, Najib can still be PM even if amendment to limit tenure is passed

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— Datuk Liew Vui Keong
Minister in the PM's Dept

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak can still become prime ministers even if an amendment which seeks to limit the tenure of the premier to two terms is passed in the Dewan Rakyat.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong explained that the provision will only come into effect after the amendment is passed and gazetted into law, and is not retrospective in nature.

"It comes into force on the date that it is gazetted. The amendment will not affect the previous terms of

the current prime minister (Mahathir)," he told a press conference in Parliament yesterday.

Asked if Najib would be given the same "privilege" should he ever be appointed as prime minister again, Liew said: "It is prospective. So if he comes back, he can still hold (the prime ministership) for

two terms."

For the record, Mahathir was the prime minister under the Barisan Nasional (BN) banner for 22 years before retiring. Under Pakatan Harapan (PH) now, he is serving his second year as the premier.

Najib, in comparison, was prime minister for two terms from

2009 to 2018, when BN lost federal power.

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019 to limit the term of the prime minister was tabled for the first reading by Liew yesterday, with the second and third readings to be tabled in the next parliamentary session in March next year.

Liew pointed out that as the amendment will affect the constitution, it requires a two-thirds majority support of the Dewan Rakyat for it to be passed, a privilege the ruling coalition does not enjoy.

"We want to have all the support from the House, and we will start working from now to get that support," he said.