

# Dr M: Reward for ex-PMs must be based on law

THE practice of the government in rewarding former prime ministers for their services should be guided by law or referred to Parliament, suggests Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (Pejuang-Langkawi).

The former prime minister claimed that the government currently acted as if "it has more power than the Federal Constitution" in doing anything it wanted without referring to Parliament.

He said there was no law defining

how much a reward to a former prime minister should be but said that in the private sector, the highest value of a gift was only limited to a Rolex watch as a sign of appreciation to an employee who had contributed to the company.

"What we see in the government is that what is given is much more than a Rolex watch even though this is not the practice in the past," he said when debating the motion of thanks on the Royal Address.

He added that former prime ministers Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn were only given the house that they had lived in.

Dr Mahathir said when he retired, he was offered a piece of land but rejected it.

Instead, he said he offered to purchase it.

He said this changed during Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's time when he was presented with a

RM70mil gift, which he said was not referred to Parliament.

He chided Datuk Seri Najib Razak (BN-Pekan) for asking the government that he be given RM100mil for his contributions as prime minister despite undergoing corruption trials linked to 1MDB.

"We must return to the Constitution in which everything that has to be done must be done in an orderly manner," Dr Mahathir said.