

TMM/25 Mac 08/MS12

Uphold the sovereignty of the Constitution

THE government must be firm on the sovereignty of the Constitution to avoid it being manipulated by politicians or be the source of misunderstanding between Federal and State governments.

Institute of Public Relations Malaysia president, Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Hamdan Adnan said a firm stance and consistency by the government were important to protect and safeguard the rights of the people.

"If there is any dispute, we have to refer to the Constitution to resolve it," he said in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He was commenting on the 'anti-hopping law' for elected representatives proposed by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Mohd Zaid Ibrahim, and the crisis over the unresolved selection of the Terengganu menteri besar due to differences in opinion between the government and the Terengganu royalty.

Hamdan said the 'anti-hopping law' was necessary for a Barisan Nasional representative who won in a general election as the people had voted for BN, not the candidate.

"If the candidates want to switch parties after winning, it would be clear that they contested in the election for self-interest and not for the interest of the people.

"As such (if elected representatives hopped parties), the rights

of the people must be restored by having a by-election in the area concerned," he said.

Regarding the Terengganu menteri besar crisis, Hamdan said everyone in the country must understand that the people are the most powerful force.

"No one can manipulate the people's power if the Federal Constitution is followed," he said, adding that he hoped the issues would be settled soon. —

Bernama



HAMDAN: No one should manipulate the people's power