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UMNO-MAHATHIR R'R'R'R'R'

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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 4 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TONIGHT HE STILL REMAINS THE PRIME MINISTER EVEN THOUGH THE HIGH COURT THIS EVENING HELD UMNO TO BE AN ILLEGAL SOCIETY WHEN GIVING JUDGMENT IN A SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST THE PARTY BY 11 MEMBERS.

THE HIGH COURT DECISION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR, WHO IS UMNO PRESIDENT, TOLD REPORTERS AFTER ATTENDING A RECEPTION HERE ORGANISED BY EDARAN OTOMOBIL NASIONAL (EON).

THE COURT IN DISMISSING THE SUIT ALSO HELD THE PARTY GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS OF LAST APRIL 24 TO BE A +NULLITY.+

ASKED WHETHER THE UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL WILL MEET ON FEB 13 AS SCHEDULED, HE SAID: +HOW CAN IT BE HELD, NOW THAT UMNO HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY?+

HOWEVER, HE SAID HE HAD YET TO READ THE FULL JUDGMENT.

+GIVE ME A CHANCE TO READ IT FIRST BEFORE COMMENTING FURTHER,+ HE SAID.

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UMNO-MAHATHIR 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'R'R'

ASKED WHETHER UMNO WILL CONVENE AN EMERGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS THE MATTER, HE SAID: +THERE CAN BE NO EMERGENCY MEETING IF UMNO HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY.+

WANITA UMNO LEADER DATIN PADUKA RAFIDAH AZIZ, WHO IS TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER, DECLINED TO COMMENT ON THE COURT RULING.

DEPUTY HOME MINISTER DATUK MEGAT JUNID MEGAT AYOB ALSO DECLINED COMMENT, SAYING HE HAD NOT READ THE FULL JUDGMENT YET.

JUSTICE DATUK HARUN HASHIM IN DISMISSING THE SUIT BY THE 11 SAID HE COULD NOT GRANT THE REMEDIES THEY SOUGHT BECAUSE AT THAT MATERIAL TIME (APRIL 24, 1987), UMNO WAS AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY UNDER THE SOCIETIES ACT FOR ESTABLISHING BRANCHES THAT DID NOT HAVE THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES.

THE 11 HAD CHALLENGED THE VALIDITY OF THE APRIL 24 1987 UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS AND SOUGHT A COURT ORDER FOR A FRESH ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS.

IN DELIVERING HIS 30-MINUTE ORAL JUDGMENT, JUSTICE DATUK HARUN SAID: +WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN 1987 WAS A NULLITY AND THE CLAIM IS DISMISSED.+ -- BERNAMA

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