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MAHATHIR-APPEAL

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KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 5 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE DOES NOT INTEND TO APPEAL AGAINST THE RULING BY THE HIGH COURT HERE YESTERDAY THAT UMNO WAS AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY.

THIS, HE SAID, WAS BECAUSE THE COURT'S DISMISSAL OF THE SUIT FILED BY 11 MEMBERS CHALLENGING THE VALIDITY OF THE PARTY'S LAST APRIL 24 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS WAS TO UMNO'S FAVOUR.

JUSTICE DATUK HARUN HASHIM, IN GIVING JUDGMENT, SAID HE DID NOT HAVE TO DECLARE THE ASSEMBLY AND ELECTIONS NULL AND VOID BECAUSE UMNO ITSELF WAS AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY AT THAT MATERIAL TIME FOR HAVING ESTABLISHED BRANCHES WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES.

HE HAD RULED THAT WHEN A SOCIETY ESTABLISHED A BRANCH WITHOUT THE REGISTRAR'S APPROVAL, NOT ONLY WAS THE BRANCH DEEMED TO BE UNLAWFUL BUT ALSO THE PARENT SOCIETY. -- BERNAMA
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