

U E067 AAE
MAHATHIR-BARISAN

88 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, FEB 5 (BERNAMA) -- THE BARISAN NASIONAL (BN) REMAINS IN EXISTENCE ALTHOUGH UMNO, THE RULING COALITION'S DOMINANT PARTNER, HAS BEEN RULED AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY BY THE COURT, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

HE TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THE BN WAS A COALITION OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND JUST BECAUSE ONE MEMBER WAS DEEMED BY LAW TO BE NO LONGER LAWFUL, IT DID NOT MEAN THE WHOLE ENTITY HAD TO CEASE TO EXIST.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (MP) OF UMNO, HELD TO BE AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY BY THE HIGH COURT HERE YESTERDAY WHEN GIVING JUDGMENT IN A SUIT BROUGHT AGAINST THE PARTY BY 11 MEMBERS, WERE NOW +MPS WITHOUT ANY PARTY.+

+THEY ARE NOT EQUIVALENT TO INDEPENDENT MPS BUT JUST MPS WITHOUT A PARTY,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THE CANDIDATE UMNO PROPOSED TO PUT UP FOR THE COMING TANJUNG PUTERI STATE BY-ELECTION IN JOHOR WOULD BE CONTESTING ON A BN TICKET. NOMINATIONS DAY FOR THE BY-ELECTION IS FEB 13 AND POLLING, IF THERE IS A CONTEST, ON FEB 27. -- BERNAMA 1856MST 05 02 88