

# Voted into power in 1986 election PM: Govt not affected

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. —** The Government is not affected by the High Court ruling yesterday that Umno is an unlawful society, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the Government, elected into power by the people in the 1986 general election, is still in power. Similarly, the position of the State Governments also remain unchanged.

Therefore, the decisions of the Governments are not affected.

Dr Mahathir said he was Prime Minister as he was a Member of Parliament and enjoyed the support of the majority in the Dewan Rakyat. He would cease to be the head of the Government if Parliament passed a vote of no-confidence against him or if he no longer enjoyed the support of the majority in the Dewan Rakyat.

"As we all know, there is nothing to show that the present Prime Minister has lost the confidence of the majority in the Dewan," he told a Press conference he called to clarify the Government's po-

## Audience with King

**JOHORE BARU, Fri. —** The Yang di-Pertuan Agong granted an audience to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Istana Bukit Serene this afternoon, said State Government sources.

However, the reason for the audience was not immediately known. — **Bername.**

sition in the light of the court decision.

With him at the conference at the Prime Minister's Department were Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba, Agriculture Minister Datuk Seri Sanusi Junid, Culture and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik and Trade and Industry Minister Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz.

Dr Mahathir said their positions and those of others he appointed to the Cabinet were also unaffected as they were elected in the 1986 general election.

He said during the election, they and others whose support they enjoyed in Parliament were elected on an individual basis although they stood under a single party symbol.

(He preferred to refer to them as MPs without a party rather than independents.)

As they and the others who supported them formed a majority in the Dewan Rakyat, they had the right to choose one from among them to be their leader.

"Thus, the Government continues to function as usual," he said.

Mr Justice Harun Hashim, in refusing the reliefs sought by 11 Umno members challenging the validity of the 38th party general assembly and the election which took place on April 24, said:

"Very sadly, I have to make a finding in law that, at the material time, Umno was an unlawful society."

He said he did not have to declare the assembly and the election null and void because "it was a nullity all the way".

At the Press conference today, Dr Mahathir said the court ruling did not affect political stability. Political instability would only arise should there be no Government.

"But we still have a Government."

Dr Mahathir said the Barisan Nasional was still in existence although one member had been declared unlawful by the High Court.

"Just because one member no longer exists does not mean that the whole entity had ceased to exist."

He said the candidate for the Tanjung Puteri by-election would be contesting under the Barisan Nasional ticket.