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PARLIAMENT - MAHATHIR  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, DEC 6 (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID TOMIGHT THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES HAD ACTED RIGHTLY BY DEREGISTERING UMNO IN LINE WITH THE HIGH COURT'S DECISION THAT THE PARTY WAS UNLAWFUL.

HE SAID IF HE AS MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS GAVE A DIRECTIVE CONTRARY TO THE COURT'S DECISION, IT WOULD MEAN THAT HE DID NOT RESPECT THE COURT.

THE PRIME MINISTER MADE THE CLARIFICATION DURING THE DEBATE ON THE MOTION BY FORMER TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGKU RAZALEIGH HANZAH SEEKING TO INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL TO AMEND THE SOCIETIES ACT TO ENABLE THE REVIVAL OF THE DEREGISTERED UMNO.

THE MOTION WAS DEFEATED BY A 106-35 VOTE COUNT AFTER A TWO-DAY HEATED DEBATE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ALTHOUGH A MINISTER HAD CERTAIN POWERS AT HIS DISPOSAL, IT DID NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT HE COULD USE THE POWERS AT HIS WHIMS AND FANCIES.--MORE  
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+IF AN ACTION IS A WRONGFUL ONE, CAN A MINISTER DIRECT THAT IT BE MADE RIGHT,+ HE ASKED.

+I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO REJECT THE COURT'S DECISION WHICH WAS ARRIVED AT ON THE REQUEST AND ACTION OF THE +GROUP OF 11+ SUPPORTED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE,+ HE SAID REFERRING TO THE GROUP WHICH BROUGHT THE LEGAL SUIT THAT EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN UMNO BEING DECLARED AN UNLAWFUL SOCIETY BY THE HIGH COURT LAST FEBRUARY.

HE SAID THE REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES HAD THE RIGHT ACCORDED BY THE LAW AND THE COURT'S DECISION TO DEREGISTER UMNO.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ENCIK SHAFAR BADA SAID SINCE UMNO HAD BEEN DEREGISTERED, IT COULD NOT BE REVIVED BECAUSE TENGKU RAZALEIGH'S MOTION DID NOT HAVE PROVISIONS THAT WOULD ENABLE THE REGISTRAR TO DEREGISTER THE NEW UMNO WHICH WAS FORMED FOLLOWING THE DEREGISTRATION.

+THE REGISTRAR CANNOT DECLARE UNLAWFUL A PARTY WHICH HAD BEEN LEGALLY REGISTERED THROUGH DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW,+ HE ADDED.--MORE  
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ACCORDING TO ENCIK SHAFAR, UMNO WOULD BE DECLARED ILLEGAL EVEN DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FIRST PRIME MINISTER TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN IF MEMBERS HAD BEHAVED LIKE THE +GROUP OF 11+.

HE SAID THE GROUP HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF UNREGISTERED UMNO BRANCHES BEFORE THE PARTY'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN APRIL LAST YEAR BUT IT DID NOT BRING THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ASSEMBLY TO REMEDY THE SITUATION.

ENCIK SHAFAR WHO IS ALSO UMNO DEPUTY PRESIDENT SAID IN THE PARTY'S SUPREME COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, NONE OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS RAISED THE ISSUE OF UNREGISTERED BRANCHES.

(THE HIGH COURT HAD RULED UMNO AN ILLEGAL SOCIETY ON THE BASIS OF THE EXISTENCE OF 30 UNREGISTERED PARTY BRANCHES AT THE TIME AS STIPULATED IN THE SOCIETIES ACT 1966 BEFORE THE PARTICULAR PROVISIONS WERE AMENDED FOLLOWING THE LEGAL SUIT).

HE SAID THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAD HELD THREE SUPREME COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SOLELY TO ENSURE THAT IT WOULD BE CONDUCTED SMOOTHLY AND PROPERLY.

BUT, HE ADDED, AFTER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THE SITUATION WAS LIKE THE MALAY PROVERB +RUMAH SUDAH SIAP PAHAT BERBUNYI+, MEANING MAKING A NOISE ONLY AFTER EVERYTHING IS OVER. -- MORE  
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ON UMNO'S ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID IT WAS THE BEST RUN POLITICAL PARTY AND +EVEN SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEN ONCE DESCRIBED UMNO AS THE MOST STABLE AND CLEAN PARTY+.

ON THE +SPIRIT OF 46+ (THE YEAR UMNO WAS BORN), HE SAID IT MEANT SACRIFICING SOLELY FOR THE PARTY, THE MALAY RACE AND ISLAM AND ABSOLUTELY NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF GRABBING POWER WITHIN THE PARTY OR GOVERNMENT.

+THE SPIRIT OF 46 IS THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND WORKING TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS,+ HE SAID.

ENCIK SHAFAR THEN INVITED ALL SIDES INVOLVED IN THE UMNO CRISIS TO BURY THE HATCHET AND TO CLOSE RANKS.

+I AM PREPARED TO SHAKE THEIR HANDS BECAUSE IF WE CONTINUE WITH BEING IN CONFLICT, NOBODY WILL BENEFIT+.--BERNAMA  
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