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PM ASKS KELANTAN GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT COURT DECISION

Mahathir-court

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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today asked the Kelantan government to abide by the High Court decision on the position of the state assemblymen for Sungai Pinang and Limbongan..'

+That is a court decision and I feel we should all respect a court decision,+ he said when asked to comment on the matter.

Yesterday the High Court here declared that Haji **Nordin** Salleh and Haji Wan Mohamed Najib Wan Mohamad, both Umno members, are the assemblymen for Sungai Pinang and Limbongan.

Justice Datuk Haji Eusoff Chin made the **declaration after** ruling that the by-elections for the seats, won respectively by Haji Mahmud Yaakub and Haji **Samat Mamat** of Bemangat 46 on Aug 24 last year, were null and void as Haji Nordin's and Haji Wan Mohamed Najib's removal from the state legislative assembly last July 3 was void and of no effect.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who is, also Umno president, said, however, that he would wait for the Supreme Court decision as the Kelantan government would be appealing the decision.

The prime minister was speaking to reporters after calling on **departing** Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to bid him farewell. -- more

▼23/01/14-31MST

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Asked to comment on proposals to strengthen the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC) concept, he said the **Asean countries** were free to make suggestions.

+**(They)** can make proposals that are more acceptable but not **to the** extent it is no longer the EAEC,+ he said, declining further **comment**.

The proposal for the establishment of the EAEC, which was mooted by the prime minister, will be discussed at the **Asean** Summit in Singapore next week.

It was reported that Indonesia will be proposing several adjustments to the EAEC concept which had been agreed **upon** by the **Asean** Economic Ministers Meeting here last year. -- Bernama

▼23/01/14-35MST