

CNS9913

R GE 05-04 00190 EA783

aae tbe

UMNO TO STUDY ANTI-PARTY HOPPING LAW IN SABAH

Mahathir - Sabah 92

KUALA LUMPUR, April 5 (Bernama) (P) Umno will study whether the Supreme Court's nullification of Kelantan's anti-party hopping law can be applied in the case of Sabah as well, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

+We will have to study the implications of the law before making any decision,+ he told reporters at his Hari Raya +open house+ here.

Dr Mahathir said that as there had been no court cases relating to that law in Sabah, it was difficult to assess whether the Supreme Court ruling could be applied to that state.

+It is still unsure that what was decided on Kelantan could be applied to Sabah,+ he said.

The Supreme Court upheld on Friday a High Court decision that the anti-party hopping law passed by the Kelantan State Assembly in April last year was void, and ordered the reinstatement of Nordin Salleh and Wan Mohamad Najib Wan Mohamad as assemblymen for Sungai Pinang and Limbongan respectively. -- more

▼05/04/15-26MST

R GE 05-04 00238 EA784

aae tbe

Mahathir - Sabah 2 (last) Kuala Lumpur

~~Nordin and Wan Naib had sought a declaration that the anti-party hopping law was +ultra vires+ the Constitution and null and void.~~

They had contested the general election in 1990 on Semangat 46 tickets and later left the party and joined Umno.

The Kelantan State Assembly approved the law in April last year with retrospective effect and expelled them as assemblymen in July.

Dr Mahathir said: +The ruling may be applied (to Sabah) but sometimes the lawyers may look at it in a different way.+

The Sabah State Assembly had in July last year passed an amendment to ~~the state constitution, allowing for an automatic disqualification of any~~ assemblyman who resigns from or ceases to be a member of the political party under whose ticket he had won the seat.

Thousands of people thronged +Seri Perdana+, the official residence of Dr Mahathir, and were entertained to Hari Raya goodies.

Among those who called on Dr Mahathir and Datuk Seri Datin Paduka Dr Siti Hasmah were MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat, Deputy Education Minister Dr Fong Chan Onn and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Datuk Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan. -- Bernama

▼05/04/15-28MST