

CNS1492

U GE 15-08 00200 EG781

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Mahathir-Umno

COURT DECISION ON UMNO ASSETS JUST, SAYS MAHATHIR

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(P)

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as just the High Court decision to allow Umno's assets with the Official Assignee to be returned to the party.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the assets had been Umno's all along.

"Although on a technicality the party was assumed to be unlawful, rightfully the Umno of today is the Umno of old," he told reporters after presenting the Malaysian Skills Award at the Cheras Technical Teachers College, here.

He said the court decision was most appropriate and one that was expected.

However, he said, he was disappointed that the process of returning the assets had taken such a long time and caused Umno to lose its source of income.

All of Umno's assets, debts and liabilities were placed under the Official Assignee following the court's declaration of the party as unlawful in 1988. The existing Umno was then registered, with the majority of the members coming from the party declared unlawful. -- more

ES MGN

15/08/19-14MST

CNS1506

U GE 15-08 00132 EG782

aae tbe

Mahathir-Umno 2 Kuala Lumpur

Dr Mahathir said many of the party's assets, since the time they were vested with the Official Assignee, had seen damage because the party was unable to maintain them well.

However, he added, the court cannot be blamed in this matter "because it is the process of the law".

Asked the significance of the court decision to Umno, he said the party had got back its assets and that there was a possibility that Umno's influence would grow.

"Many members of the old Umno are in the present Umno. Also, all policies and other matters which gave identity to the old Umno are now with the present Umno," he said. -- more

ES MGN

15/08/19-20MST

CNS1540

U GE 15-08 00125 EG783

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Mahathir-Umno 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said the period for anyone to challenge Umno's application to recover its assets had passed.

He said Umno had given adequate notice to all quarters to protest its application but that there had been none.

"Furthermore, we feel that our claim is supported with all the legal reasons," he said.

He also said that the Umno Supreme Council would meet to discuss the court decision once the party received official word on the matter.

Among Umno's assets are the 38-storey Menara Datuk Onn which houses the party headquarters and the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC). -- Bernama

ES MGN

CNS1519  
U GE 15-08 00123 ED306

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Mahathir-Umno 4 (last) Kuala Lumpur

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In MELAKA, state Umno secretary Datuk Mohamad Ali Rustam said the court decision was the final proof that today's Umno was the rightful successor of the old Umno.

He said the decision was a severe blow to the credibility of Semangat 46.

In IPOH, Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said the decision would inspire Umno leaders and members to continue their struggle for the people.

He said the party had been functioning smoothly despite its assets being frozen for more than six years.

"Now we are better placed to serve the people," he said. -- Bernama

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♥15/08/19-26MST

CNS1544

U GE 15-08 00152 ED307

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Mahathir-Umno 5 Kuala Lumpur (re-opens item)

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In SEREMBAN, Negeri Sembilan Umno chief Tan Sri Mohamed Isa Abdul Samad said Umno could now put to rest the problem which had haunted it since 1988.

He told reporters the party no longer needed to pay rent to the Official Assignee for the use of its own buildings.

The party at the state and divisional levels could also begin repairing their buildings, some of which were in poor condition, he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, state Umno chief Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said a committee would be set up comprising representatives from all eight divisions to handle the takeover of assets belonging to the old Umno.

He said party properties in the state, consisting of buildings and land, were worth several millions of ringgit. -- more

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♥15/08/19-46MST

CNS1548

U GE 15-08 00073 ED308

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Mahathir-Umno 6 Kuala Lumpur

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In JOHOR BAHRU, Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the "good news" had long been awaited by party members.

He hoped the issue of Umno's assets would not be raked up again by anyone, in particular the opposition parties.

"The court decision clearly shows that today's Umno is the true Umno," he added. -- more

♥15/08/19-53MST

CNS1637

U GE 15-08 00078 ED312

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Mahathir-Umno 7 Kuala Lumpur

In SINGAPORE, another Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said Umno had complied with all the stringent conditions required for it to get back the assets.

"The court decision is the final chapter to establish Umno as a continuation of the previous Umno," he said after giving a talk at the Harvard Club of Singapore annual dinner. -- Bernama

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