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MAHATHIR HOPES NO MORE OBSTACLE FOR BAKUN PROJECT

KOTA KINABALU, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed hopes tonight that there would be no more obstacle to the Bakun hydro-electricity project in Sarawak after the Court of Appeal dismissed the decision of Kuala Lumpur High Court relating to the project.

"We just carry on with the project ... I hope there'll be no more obstacle," he told reporters after addressing a Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Puasa gathering at the Sabah Trade Centre, here.

Dr Mahathir refused to comment further on the matter.

The Court of Appeal in Kuala Lumpur today dismissed the High Court decision which had declared the Environment Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environment Impact Assessment) Amendment Order 1995, applied to the RM13.6 billion Bakun hydro-electric dam in Sarawak, invalid.

On the issue of Umno spreading its wings to Sarawak, he said, "We have no intention of going to Sarawak."

The former Sarawak's head of state Tun Abdul Rahman Yaakub had been associated with the move to bring Umno to Sarawak, an allegation which he denied. -- BERNAMA

JS KG ABG