

17 MAY 2002

Court-Suit

TWO UMNO MEMBERS SUE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-GENERAL

SHAH ALAM, May 17 (Bernama) -- Two Umno members today filed a suit against party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob for failing to declare the Klang Umno Division delegates meetings for 2001 and 2002 as null and void.

Othman Ibrahim, a former treasurer of the Pelabuhan Klang branch, and Zulkifre Abu, a former committee member of the Selat Selatan branch, are seeking an order for the two meetings to be reconvened and all proceedings including election of the divisional committee to be held again.

Their application, filed at the High Court here by Messrs Teng Chang Khim & Co, also seeks to have the division's delegates meetings on April 22, 2001 and April 17, 2002, declared as null and void.

According to the writ of summons, the meetings had been marred by the attendance of 11 Umno branches which had been temporarily dissolved by the Registrar of Societies under section 14(5) of the Societies Act 1966 from October to December 2000.

It said that the 11 branches could be declared as illegal under section 14(7) of the Societies Act following the annulment of registration by the Registrar of Societies on Oct 30 and 31, 2001.

The branches were Pelabuhan Selatan, Teluk Gadong, Sri Pelabuhan, Kampung Tengah Teluk Gong, Jalan Kem, Teluk Pulai, Kampung Masjid Pelabuhan Klang, Klang Bandar, Kampung Nelayan Teluk Gong, Kampung Raja Uda and Kawasan Perumahan Pandamaran.

However, seven branches -- Teluk Pulai, Sri Pelabuhan, Pelabuhan Selatan, Kampung Nelayan Teluk Gong, Teluk Gadong, Klang Bandar and Kampung Tengah Teluk Gong -- appealed to Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi against the annulment order on Jan 2, 2002.

According to the writ, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Chor Chee Heung approved the branches' appeal on Jan 22, 2002.

However, it claimed that this was null and void because Chor was not empowered to grant the appeal as it was made more than 30 days after the date of the Registrar of Societies' decision.

Both Othman and Zulkifre are self-employed.

-- BERNAMA

AZL RIZ AU YBY