

**Court dismisses suit by Felda settlers**  
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TEMERLOH: The High Court here has quashed the defamation suit filed by eight Felda settlers against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak arising from his speech when announcing the 'windfall' at Felda Jengka 8, Bandar Jengka, Pahang, on May 8.

Judge Datuk Akhtar Tahir made the decision in chambers after allowing Najib's application to dismiss the suit.

Counsel Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun told the media that after reading the whole speech of the prime minister, the judge decided that it was not defamatory in nature.

Mohd Hafarizam said the court also decided that the speech was a 'figure of speech' that did not refer to any group in particular.

"As such, the court dismissed the plaintiff's (Felda settlers) suit and allowed the defendant's (Najib) application. The court ordered the plaintiffs to pay RM3,000 each to the defendant," he said.

On Aug 7, seven male and one female settlers from Felda Wilayah Jengka, Bandar Jengka, sued Najib through the law office of Mohd Harris pertaining to his speech which was alleged to have shamed and insulted them.

They claimed that the speech delivered in front of about 40,000 people, among others gave the meaning that they were traitors, lacked integrity, insincere and disloyal in their struggles.

Counsel Mohd Harris Abdullah, representing the Felda settlers, told the media that he would discuss with his clients whether to file an appeal against the verdict today.

Meanwhile outside the court, more than 600 settlers of Felda Wilayah Jengka who supported the Prime Minister had gathered from 8am carrying banners showing support for Najib. - Bernama

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