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**HEADLINE:** Confusion over the status of former S46 Exco members

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**BODY:**

MACHANG, Wed. - There is confusion over the status of the former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 Exco members in the State Government following conflicting statements from them and their former party president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

Tengku Razaleigh, when met at the funeral of Pulai Chondong Assemblyman Mohd Noor Ahmad, today said he believed the former S46 Exco members had abided by Umno's directive for them to resign.

"I have not been in contact with them for some time, but I believe they have resigned as directed by the Umno leadership.

"As an ordinary Umno member like them, I no longer have power to direct them, but I have advised them to resign," Tengku Razaleigh said.

Mohd Noor was one of the four former S46 Exco members in the State Government. He died at the Universiti Sains Malaysia Hospital Intensive Care Unit early this morning.

The others are Deputy Menteri Besar II Datuk Rozali Isohak, Nik Mustapha Nik Loding and Daud Jaafar.

However, one of them, when contacted, said they had yet to tender their resignation.

He also said that they, except Daud who is overseas, had an audience with the Kelantan Sultan at Istana Mahkota about 9pm yesterday where the matters discussed included issues relating to their resignation.

It is also learnt that only Rozali and the late Mohd Noor had received the official notice from the Umno headquarters directing them to resign.

Nik Mustapha and Daud have yet to receive theirs.

On the Pulai Chondong State by-election which will be held following the death of Mohd Noor, Tengku Razaleigh said it would be up to the Umno leadership to determine the candidate.

"I'm now an Umno member and so are the former S46 members. It is up to the party (Umno) leadership to decide on the candidate," he added.

Meanwhile, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said

today the action of the Exco members from the dissolved Parti Melayu Semangat 46 in delaying the submission of their letters of resignation from the State Government showed that they were only interested in pursuing their personal interest.

He said former S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who was once their leader, should demonstrate a more responsible attitude by ensuring that they, having become Umno members, adhered to the directives of the party leadership by resigning immediately.

"Instead, they make excuses and delay in submitting their letters of resignation ... this goes to show that they are more interested in pursuing their own personal goal rather than the party's (Umno's) cause," he said here.

He said this when commenting on the statement by Tengku Razaleigh today that he (Tengku Razaleigh) was now an ordinary member of Umno and no longer had the power over the actions by former members of the S46 led by Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Rozali Isohak.

Meanwhile, Rozali said here that he had not decided on the actual date to resign as he had only received the letter yesterday.

He said the resignation could not be done immediately because one of the Exco members from the former S46, Daud Jaafar, was now abroad (in Jakarta) on official business.

In fact, he said so far only he and the late Mohd Nor Ahmad had received the letter from Umno directing them to resign while the other two Exco members, Nik Mustapha Nik Loding and Daud had not received the letters.

He said the resignation would be done simultaneously by all of them and as such they had to wait for Daud to return from abroad before they could resign.

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