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RAZALEIGH-PLEDGE R'R'R'  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 25 (BERNAMA) -- TENGKU RAZALEIGH HAMZAH, WHO LOST IN HIS BID TO WREST THE UMNO PRESIDENCY, TODAY PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR RE-ELECTED PARTY CHIEF DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD.

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT HIS SUPPORTERS WOULD ALSO GIVE THEIR BACKING TO THE PRIME MINISTER, AND STRESSED THAT HE ACCEPTED THE DECISION OF THE UMNO DELEGATES ALTHOUGH HE HAD EXPECTED TO WIN.

TENGKU RAZALEIGH, WHO WAS DEFEATED BY 43 VOTES, TOLD REPORTERS AT THE PRESS CENTRE AT THE PUTRA WORLD TRADE CENTRE HERE WHERE THE 38TH UMNO GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS BEING HELD THAT HE WAS ADVISING HIS SUPPORTERS TO ALSO ACCEPT THE DECISION WHICH HAD BEEN MADE ACCORDING TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

HE SAID HIS SUPPORTERS SHOULD BE GIVEN AN EXPLANATION REGARDING THE DECISION MADE BY THE DELEGATES, ADDING THAT THIS WAS NECESSARY TO STRENGTHEN PARTY UNITY TO COPE WITH THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES FACING THE COUNTRY.

ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD RESIGN HIS TRADE AND INDUSTRY PORTFOLIO, TENGKU RAZALEIGH SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIS SUPPORTERS BEFORE MAKING ANY DECISION. -- MORE

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RAZALEIGH-PLEDGE 2 KUALA LUMPUR R'R'R'

TO A QUESTION WHETHER HE WOULD ACCEPT OFFERS OF ANY POST, HE SAID IT WOULD DEPEND ON WHETHER THE POST SUITED HIM AND WHETHER HIS SUPPORTERS WERE AGREEABLE.

HE SAID IT WAS THE PRIME MINISTER'S PREROGATIVE TO DECIDE WHETHER HE WAS STILL NEEDED.

TENGKU RAZALEIGH ALSO DISMISSED AS +NONSENSE+ SPECULATION THAT HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES PLANNED TO SET UP A POLITICAL PARTY TO OPPOSE

THRO.