

PM: Razaleigh, others can't join Umno

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By SYED ABU BAKAR

ALOR STAR, Fri. — Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and the pro-tem committee members of Umno Malaysia will not be accepted as members of the new Umno, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, former Umno members who had been tricked into supporting Umno Malaysia will be accepted into the new Umno if they wished to join it, said Dr Mahathir who is pro-tem president of the new Umno.

Speaking to several thousand supporters at Dewan Datuk Syed Omar here tonight, he said these people had caused Umno to be declared an illegal society and they should therefore not be accepted into the new Umno.

He said only those who are selfless and loyal to the party will be accepted.

Dr Mahathir said steps will be taken to ensure that the new Umno will not suffer the fate of Umno.

"Our lawyers will be sent to all branches to instruct members on the rules they must adhere to and all other aspects of the law, to prevent another attempt to destroy the new party by irresponsible members," he said.

He strongly denied an allegation from certain quarters that members of the new Umno will be required to swear allegiance to him.

Dr Mahathir reminded former

Umno members not to be influenced into joining Umno Malaysia or any other party organised by those behind the formation of Umno Malaysia.

He said fresh attempts had been made by those behind the formation of Umno Malaysia to have the new Umno declared illegal.

"But I will not rest and will continue to struggle for the future of the Malays and those loyal to Umno. They can do what they like," he said.

Dr Mahathir said Umno had to pay \$30 million interest per year because Tengku Razaleigh had influenced other members to build the party's headquarters at \$360 million although he (Dr Mahathir) suggested at first that the headquarters be built at only \$70 million.

Dr Mahathir arrived at the Kepala Batas airport at 7.20pm and was accompanied by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Haji Osman Aroff and other VIPs.

He was received at the airport by State Executive Council members and representatives of the Barisan Nasional component parties.

He will attend a briefing on the development of the State at the Kubang Pasu district office tomorrow morning.

He will then proceed to Bukit Kayu Hitam to open the duty free zone complex and is expected to arrive there at 3am.