

03 OCT 1996

Razaleigh-Unity

DR MAHATHIR'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT S46 SIGNIFIES A GREAT LEADER

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's willingness to accept the party into Umno shows the quality of a great leader.

"He is a statesman who is prepared to offer the olive-branch and, in the interest of Malay unity and the country's future, we humbly accept his leadership," he said at the Malay unity rally, here.

He said the rally showed the big-heartedness and strength of the Malay race.

"We come not to celebrate the victory of any individual or party but the victory of the Malays because only those who hate Malay unity will bemoan today's event or try to undermine it," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh said the Melayu unification was not meant to make enemies of anyone but to serve as the foundation for unity, political stability and prosperity of everyone.

"The dissolution of our party is a small sacrifice for the Malay race and we are happy that Umno is prepared to accept us en bloc," he said.

As such, he said that instead of questioning the party's move, the detractors should whatever opportunity available to unite.

"Let us appreciate this and God's blessing. Don't let the spirit of unification at the Malay Assembly in Johor Baharu 50 years ago, which has come a-knocking in Kota Baharu today, be lost," he said.

Hence, he called on all Malays, irrespective of their grouping or ideology, to discard their anger and hatred and unite for the sake of the umat and the country they love. -- BERNAMA

NH AHH JK