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Mahathir-S46

NO CONDITIONS FOR KU LI'S RETURN TO UMNO, SAYS PM

KUALA BERANG, Aug 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today reiterated that no conditions have been imposed for the return of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and his supporters to Umno.

Welcoming the move by S46 to dissolve the party on Oct 6, Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said that he did not want to see factions in Umno following the return of Tengku Razaleigh and his followers to the party.

"They should join as a member, enjoy rights rightfully enjoyed by other Umno members and are bound by party discipline," he told a press conference at Tasik Kenyir Golf Resort, 40km from here.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on Tengku Razaleigh's statement yesterday that S46 would be dissolved on Oct 6 and he and his followers would join Umno.

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said that Tengku Razaleigh had not been promised any special treatment or position in Umno merely to please his followers.

He said that the position of Umno members was determined by a large number of members. "If the members were to choose a person to become their leader, then so he will be," he added.

"In this respect, if members were to choose Tengku Razaleigh, then he will attain the position...but it is as an Umno member, not as an Umno member representing former S46 members," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that there would be factions in Umno if the "former S46 member" factor was perpetuated.

He also said that the return of Tengku Razaleigh and his followers to Umno was welcomed with open arms by him and other Umno members.

Before setting up S46 in 1989, Tengku Razaleigh challenged Dr Mahathir for the Umno president's post at the Umno general assembly in 1987 but lost.

Tengku Razaleigh's move to dissolve S46 to rejoin Umno was the main reason for the rift between S46 and PAS which rules Kelantan, in July.

It has resulted in a political impasse in the state. -- BERNAMA

AM RM