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KELANTAN UMNO PLACES HIGH HOPES ON UMNO-S46 UNITY

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- The dissolution of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) and the entry of its leaders and members into Umno soon will certainly have a positive effect on the unity of the Malays and their political pre-eminence, according to several Kelantan Umno leaders.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamad said Umno had indeed placed very high hopes on the unity of the members of the two parties.

"We hope that with this unity, we'll be able to give a new breath of life to Kelantan Umno," he said when contacted at the Malay Unity rally here.

S46 is expected to be dissolved after its special assembly on Oct 6. This will be followed by their entry into Umno.

Mustapa, who is Jeli Umno Division head, was confident that development efforts in Kelantan would be smooth and effective with the joining hands of the members of both parties.

"We hope these unity efforts will yield positive results as our ultimate objective is to regain power in Kelantan," he said.

Melor Assemblyman Datuk Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadir said the S46-UMNO unity was timely and met the demands of Islam.

Zainal Abidin, who is Opposition Leader in the Kelantan State Assembly, hoped the unity would set the stage for PAS to join Umno in the interest of the Malays and Islam.

Kelantan Umno Information Chief Datuk Haji Ibrahim Ali was confident that the unity would provide a wider opportunity for Umno to be returned to power in the state.

Kelantan S46 Liaison Committee Chairman Datuk Haji Rozali Isohak praised Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for his willingness to accept back S46 members into Umno.

Rozali, who is Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar, said the Prime Minister's call that PAS also join hands with Umno was timely and the party should consider this carefully and discard its orthodox thinking.

Umno Malaysia Information Chief Tan Sri Hussein Ahmad was confident that if everyone was sincere, Umno would be able to regain power in Kelantan within a short period arising from this Malay unity. -- BERNAMA

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