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PAS-Coalition

KU LI NOT CONFIDENT OF PAS-UMNO COALITON A REALITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- Former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has no confidence that the proposed PAS-Umno coalition in Kelantan will become a reality.

PAS could not work with anyone and this was proven when the party could not work with the Barisan Nasional (BN) in the 1970s and of late with S46, he said.

"I don't think PAS could implement this, whether in the short or the long run. I have experienced it, that also by giving them full freedom, but they don't respect colleagues and did not want to have talks," he told reporters at the Parliament House today when asked to comment on PAS' willingness to form a coalition government with Umno in Kelantan.

"With the cooperation from Umno, PAS could amend the state constitution and resolve its problem with the Kelantan Sultan. But after that, we know what will happen to the coalition, looking at PAS having the majority (say)," he said.

The Gua Musang MP said PAS would probably be pretending to accept Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's conditions against Umno being forced to accept all PAS demands before setting up the coaliton.

Dr Mahathir on his return from abroad yesterday said he was not optimistic of a coalition with PAS but added that a coalition government could be formed if PAS did not force Umno to accept all its demands.

Asked if Umno should accept PAS's offer if it was prepared to accept all the Umno terms, Tengku Razaleigh said: "It will not be easy for PAS to trap the Umno leaders."

Tengku Razaleigh who returned to Umno's fold last month said the idea of a coalition government had cropped up because PAS had weakened with no more friends in the state government as S46 had been dissolved and its members joining Umno.

He however hoped that PAS would accept what Dr Mahathir had suggested, and submit their coalition proposal with all sincerity.

PAS deputy president Haji Abdul Hadi Awang said the party headquarters was leaving it entirely to Kelantan PAS to find a way out to resolve its problem in the state, and it was waiting a detailed report on the coalition proposal.

"PAS can work with anyone as long as he does not impair the party's struggles and principles," he added. -- BERNAMA

ARA AR ABG