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Mahathir-Razaleigh

NO RED CARPET FOR TENGKU RAZALEIGH TO REJOIN UMNO, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there was no need for him to invite Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to rejoin Umno as the Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president could decide for himself.

"There's no need for me to invite... he can think," Dr Mahathir said when asked to comment on the recent statement by Tengku Razaleigh that he was awaiting an invitation from Dr Mahathir before making any decision to rejoin Umno.

Speaking to reporters at his Hari Raya open house at "Seri Perdana" here, Dr Mahathir, who is the Prime Minister, said Umno would not roll out the red carpet for Tengku Razaleigh, former Umno Treasurer General, to rejoin Umno.

Tengku Razaleigh told reporters in Kota Baharu on Feb 10 that he was ready to consider it if Dr Mahathir himself invited him to rejoin Umno.

He said, however, that he would first consider whether the invitation was "sincere or not."

He also said he would not stop any S46 member from joining Umno if they wished to do so.

His statement drew criticism from several Umno leaders who said he should not wait for a special invitation from the Umno president if he truly wished to return to the Umno fold.

Dr Mahathir said if Tengku Razaleigh wanted to rejoin Umno, he could do so. "We have already said that Umno is the right of all Malays so long as they accept the principles of the party's struggle," he added.

He said anyone could join Umno "without being invited" if they were prepared to accept its struggle.

Asked if he would initiate efforts to bring Tengku Razaleigh back into the Umno fold, he said: "I don't know of any efforts (to initiate)... I have a lot of work (and) I don't initiate anything else."

Scorching rumours that Tengku Razaleigh had met him, Dr Mahathir said "those are still rumours... there is no truth in it."

Asked whether he was willing to meet with Tengku Razaleigh, he said: "To meet, we have to know for what matter." -- BERNAMA

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