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RAZALEIGH HAS SAME RIGHTS, OPPORTUNITIES IN UMNO, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who has rejoined Umno, now enjoys the same rights and opportunities as other members of Umno.

Umno members can choose or reject anyone in the party to become a leader, the Prime Minister and Umno president told reporters after opening the Malaysia Design Conference '96 and launching the Malaysia Goods Design Mark.

He was asked to comment on statements by Umno vice-presidents Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Tan Sri Muhammad Muhd Taib that it was up to the party members to choose their leaders.

The three were responding to a prediction by former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Musa Hitam that Tengku Razaleigh would one day emerged as a "leader" in Umno.

Dr Mahathir said: "All this is up to the Umno members themselves. Umno members can choose anyone to become a leader or reject anyone.

"Hence, we can't say he (Razaleigh) definitely will be (a leader) or definitely won't be. He is now a member of Umno, has the same rights as other Umno members, has the same opportunities. There is no difference." --
BERNAMA

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