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RAZALEIGH REJOINING UMNO A SHOCK TO RAIS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 (Bernama) -- The Umno President's announcement that Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is rejoining Umno is a shock to Semangat 46, its Deputy President Datuk Rais Yatim said today.

He claimed that the Prime Minister's announcement differed from what was supposed to have been discussed between Semangat 46 and Umno.

He said that the announcement did not reflect the cooperation mechanism between the two parties that was supposed to have been reached at the Razaleigh

- Mahathir meeting last Tuesday.

"I am shocked over the Prime Minister's announcement because it does not fully reflect what had actually transpired," he told Bernama.

As far as he knew what was announced differed from what had been agreed to.

He was given to understand that at the meeting between the two leaders, the focus of discussion was on a formula and mechanism of cooperation between Semangat and Umno and their possible merger at a later stage.

Rais was confident that the Prime Minister would make a full statement on the cooperation mechanism between Semangat and Umno.

Asked whether he himself would rejoin Umno, Rais said: "What is important now is the S46 stand..we want to cooperate with Umno in the interest of the Malays." -- BERNAMA

HS AAM