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Musa-Razaleigh

RAZALEIGH WILL EMERGE PROMINENTLY IN UMNO, SAYS MUSA

By: Abdul Halim Taib

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 12 (Bernama) -- Former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Musa Hitam said he expects Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, the former president of the dissolved Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46), to emerge as a "leader" in Umno.

Musa, who is also a former Deputy Prime Minister, said the return of Tengku Razaleigh to Umno will create a new political situation within Umno in particular and the country in general.

"I don't know in what area he will emerge. Ku Li is not an ordinary man in the national political arena, and will emerge as a leader one day," he told Bernama when met here last night.

The eight-year-old S46 was dissolved at an extraordinary general meeting on Oct 6, paving the way for about 200,000 former S46 members to join Umno.

Musa believed the presence of Tengku Razaleigh in Umno was not merely as a "gurkha" (ordinary member) but had a certain objective.

"Tengku Razaleigh definitely did not join just like that but must have made a thorough evaluation of every aspect," he said.

Musa was the running-mate of Tengku Razaleigh when the latter took on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for the Umno presidency in the 1987 party elections.

Tengku Razaleigh failed in his bid to unseat Dr Mahathir while Musa lost his deputy president post to Tun Ghafar Baba who had succeeded him as Deputy Prime Minister.

Some disgruntled Umno members challenged the election results in court which led to the party being declared illegal.

Umno was re-registered but Tengku Razaleigh did not join and went on to form S46.

Asked whether he thought Tengku Razaleigh would contest for a post in the 1999 Umno elections, Musa laughed: "You surely can assess for yourself." -- BERNAMA

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