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Mahathir-Razaleigh

DR MAHATHIR'S REMINDER RELEVANT, SAYS RAZALEIGH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 10 (Bernama) -- Gua Musang Member of Parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who lost to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the contest for the Umno president's post in 1987, supports the Prime Minister's call for an end to money politics.

He said that the 1987 contest cited by the Umno president was relevant because of the party elections this year.

"I do not know myself whether money was involved (in 1987) but if indeed there was, it is not to the extent it is today," he told reporters during tea break after the opening of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

In his policy speech, Dr Mahathir, among other things, reminded delegates of the split in Umno following the contest for the top party post, leading to the formation of the splinter Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) by Tengku Razaleigh.

After eight years, S46 was dissolved on Sunday for leaders and members to return to Umno. The Umno Supreme Council last night confirmed the membership of the 200,000 former S46 members, increasing the Umno membership to 2.6 million.

Tengku Razaleigh said that he was happy to be in Umno again and hoped to be able to make his contributions to the party.

"I feel that the party president has spoken from his heart on the problem faced by the party and this should be given serious attention by everyone," he said.

Former Wanita Umno vice head Datin Paduka Rahmah Osman, who gave her support to Tengku Razaleigh in the 1987 contest, also supported Dr Mahathir's call to members to prevent a split in the party.

Rahmah, who left S46 a few years ago to return to Umno, said that the Wanita Umno which had replaced its leader in the movement's election at its assembly yesterday, should heed the advice.

She hoped that International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, who was toppled by Deputy Health Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman, would accept the result of the election with an open heart.

"I have been defeated in elections myself but that is how things are...sometimes you win, sometimes you lose," she said. -- BERNAMA

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