

12 SEP 1996
S46-Razaleigh
S46 ALL SET TO DISSOLVE, SAYS RAZALEIGH

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 12 (Bernama) -- Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) does not foresee any problems in dissolving the party at its extraordinary general assembly on Oct 6 to enable its members to join Umno, S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

He said all members of the party Supreme Council and other leaders at all levels including the delegates to the assembly have agreed to the proposed dissolution.

"Certainly there are some who did not agree (to join Umno) but their number is small, merely two or three per cent," he told a news conference after a meeting of the party Supreme Council at his residence in Jalan Langgak Golf here.

The three-hour meeting could be the last for the council before the dissolution of the party.

Tengku Razaleigh said he hoped to hand over at least 200,000 membership application forms from S46 members to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Oct 8, and not Oct 9 as announced previously.

He said the motion to dissolve S46 would be tabled by deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim at the extraordinary meeting.

"We hope, after that, we will become members of the big family headed by Dr Mahathir," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh also said that the Prime Minister and he were scheduled to speak at a "unity assembly" to be held in Kota Bharu in Kelantan on Oct 3.

About 100 leaders of Barisan Nasional have been invited to attend the assembly which is aimed at highlighting the need for unity.

On how he rated the chances of toppling the ruling PAS in Kelantan, Tengku Razaleigh said his present focus was to bring as many S46 members as possible to join Umno in order to strengthen the party, especially in Kelantan.

He believed PAS was losing support as its style of leadership was viewed as lacklustre.

Asked on the position of the four S46 representatives who are still holding posts in the Kelantan State Exco, Tengku Razaleigh said he was leaving it to their wisdom because "after this I will no longer be president of S46".

Kelantan Deputy Menteri Besar II and state S46 chief Datuk Rozali Isohak, when met after the S46 Supreme Council meeting, said he had so far not received any directive from the party regarding the position of the four executive councillors.

"For the time being, we will remain in the Exco. After Oct 6, we will review the situation," he said.

The four S46 executive councillors, who came under pressure by PAS to quit after the two parties severed their political links, have maintained that only the Sultan of Kelantan could remove them from their posts. --

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