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S46-Membership

S46 MEMBERS SUBMIT UMNO APPLICATION FORMS TO DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah handed over some 200,000 Umno application forms to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Umno headquarters at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here today.

The ceremony was the highlight of events towards attaining Malay unity in conjunction with the 50th Umno general assembly which begins on Thursday.

Umno leaders including deputy president Datuk seri Anwar Ibrahim, secretary-general Datuk Mohamed Rahmat and Wanita Umno leader Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz were present when Tengku Razaleigh and 12 former top leaders of the party which was dissolved on Sunday handed over the 26 boxes containing Umno application forms of former S46 members.

Former top S46 leaders present were deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim, vice president Datuk Suhaimi Kamaruddin, secretary general Datuk Abdul Manan Osman, information chief Ahmad Shabery Chik and Kelantan liaison committee chairman Datuk Rozali Isohak.

Tengku Razaleigh had personally handed over his application form to Dr Mahathir at the ceremony.

Tengku Razaleigh, met by reporters later, said that Dr Mahathir had decided to accept the S46 members en bloc without having to undergo the vetting process.

"Under the agreement, there will be no vetting, we are accepted en bloc...for as long as we confirm that all are our members who do not lose their eligibility to become members," he said.

On the four former members of the party in the Kelantan exco, he said that all of them had also applied to join Umno.

He said that their position would be reconsidered and would be discussed with Dr Mahathir, adding: "I feel that Umno will decide."

Tengku Razaleigh thanked the Umno president, leaders and members for their preparedness to accept S46 members to join Umno.

He said that more application forms would be handed over within the next two weeks.

Asked on how he felt to be rejoining Umno, he said: "I don't feel anything unusual because I am a politician...have long been in politics."

He said that former S46 members had received 50 invitation cards to attend the Umno general assembly and they would all try to make it. --

BERNAMA

RAZ RM