

06 OCT 1996
LEAD S46-Dissolve
S46 SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES DISSOLUTION

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- The special general assembly of the Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) today unanimously passed the motion to dissolve the party and for its members to join Umno en masse in the interest of Malay unity.

The motion was passed by all the 468 delegates attending the assembly at the Kuala Lumpur Hilton here at about 1.50pm after delegates from the states debated and supported the motion.

Shouts of "Hidup Melayu" were repeated three times before the assembly was adjourned by permanent chairman Datuk Yusof Latiff who chaired the four-and-a-half-hour meeting.

A mixture of sadness and happiness was apparent among the delegates and observers who filled the hall and hotel lobby to follow the proceedings via television and video screens.

The motion tabled by party deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim read:

"It is hereby agreed, in line with the aspiration and mandate of the members and leaders of Parti Melayu Semangat 46, with effect from Oct 6 1996 or 23 Jamadilawal 1417 Parti Melayu Semangat 46 is deemed to be dissolved according to section 13(1)(a) of the Societies Act and Section 8 of the Societies Regulations 1984 subject to the discretion and powers of the Registrar of Societies concerned, AND with the acceptance and passing of this motion, all interests and rights of members of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 are deemed to be entrusted to the jurisdiction of this Special General Assembly lawfully covering the interests of all members under any other provisions relating to the Societies Act 1966; and

AS SUCH the assembly today accepts and approves the accounts of Parti Melayu Semangat 46 which had been circulated to the delegates AND any other matters which are not finalised by the Special Assembly today can proceed with finalisation according to the discretion and powers of the Registrar of Societies through negotiations with or directives to those officers whose names appear on Form 6 of the Societies Act 1966."

The Special General Assembly was officiated by party president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah. In his speech, Tengku Razaleigh urged party members to acknowledge the fact that a majority of the Malays have now joined Umno which is accepted by the people and that members of S46 should join Umno to be together with other Malays in championing the cause of religion, race and nation.

At a press conference after the assembly, Tengku Razaleigh who was asked to comment on his feelings with regard to the dissolution of the party, said: "We are sad because we have been together championing our cause for almost eight years and all members of the party have been very loyal, and I am extremely sad that we cannot proceed with our cause under the banner which we had carried for so long.

"But what can we do, we must make a choice and this is one decision which I feel we should take and we do not make a hasty decision, we have considered it very thoroughly, seriously and deeply and it looks like there is consensus, although we have to sacrifice in dissolving the party I feel there are bigger challenges ahead of us."

Tengku Razaleigh said the decision of the Special General Assembly would be conveyed immediately to the Registrar of Societies to revoke the registration of the party officially.

On Tuesday, about 200,000 applications from former members of S46 to

join Umno would be handed over to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Umno president at Umno headquarters here, he added.

Responding to a question, Tengku Razaleigh, who is also member of parliament for Gua Musang, said he believed all seven members of parliament and 11 members of the Kelantan state assembly from S46 were among those who had filled the forms to join Umno.

He said party members who had not filled the forms yet could do so at the office of the caretaker secretary general of the party until the revocation of the S46 registration had been approved by the Registrar of Societies.

He said Umno had invited S46 leaders as special guests to the opening of the Umno General Assembly on Thursday and they will attend it.

S46 was formed on May 5, 1989 with the objective of reviving Umno which had its registration cancelled a year earlier. When it was formed, the party was said to have about 400,000 members.

"However after two general elections, the question of reviving the original Umno is no longer an important political issue in the country. There are many other political agenda that we have to attend to," Tengku Razaleigh said in his speech themed "Towards Real Unification of the Malays".

In this context, he said, the existing Umno is the party in power and it has been accepted by the people through the last two general elections.

"Thus we must accept this fact and be together in a vehicle that has already been joined by a majority of Malays," he said.

Citing the peace efforts in Bosnia and Mindanao, he said: "As if the Malays in Malaysia do not want peace."

As Malays, he said no matter how deep their quarrel may be, they must immediately end their quarrel once an amicable solution has been found. --

BERNAMA

AFY/AZZ/AHT AO