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Razaleigh-Umno

TENGGU RAZALEIGH MAY STILL WANT TO BE WITH UMNO

KOTA BAHARU, April 27 (Bernama) -- Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today denied reports that he is planning to join Umno but stated that he is keeping an "open mind" on the possibility.

"I have no wish for the present (to join Umno). They were merely speculations," the Semangat 46 president told a news conference at his residence, Palm Manor, here.

Asked for a more positive response to the speculations, arising from his recent meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as widely reported in the press yesterday, he said he was keeping an open mind should there be an "official offer" from Umno itself.

"If there is a proposal, we (Semangat 46) being a small party will certainly discuss it," he said, adding that the issue was never raised during his meeting with Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir, the Umno president, said yesterday that he met Tengku Razaleigh recently and their discussions only touched on current issues, like politics and economy in general, but there was no mention of him joining Umno.

Over the years, Tengku Razaleigh said, he had always considered himself as an Umno member, since he had never resigned or had been expelled from Umno.

He was quite open about joining Umno if this action would help strengthen Malay unity and thus ensure the future of the Malays.

Tengku Razaleigh also confirmed that he had received Umno's official invitation for Semangat 46 to attend Umno's 50th anniversary celebrations next month.

"I have not made any decision on the matter, as I have to discuss it within the party first," he said.

According to Tengku Razaleigh, the event was discussed during his meeting with Dr Mahathir, and he was informed that the celebrations were basically "Umno's affairs" which did not involve other parties. -- BERNAMA

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