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Razaleigh-S46

UMNO IS THE PARTY FOR MAJORITY OF MALAYS, SAYS RAZALEIGH

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today asked members of the party to accept the reality that Umno is now supported by the majority of Malays and the people.

Because of this, S46 members need to join Umno in order to work with other Malays in the interest of their religion, race and the country, he told about 500 delegates to the S46 extraordinary general assembly at Hotel KL Hilton which was convened to approve the dissolution of the party.

In his speech, which carried the theme "Towards True Malay Unity", Tengku Razaleigh spoke on the reasons for dissolving S46.

He said S46 was formed in 1988 with the objective of reviving Umno after Umno was de-registered.

"However, after two general elections, the issue of reviving the original Umno is no longer a key political issue in the country. There are many other political agendas which demand our attention," he said.

A new Umno party was registered in 1988, drawing most of the membership of the old Umno, and it grew stronger with new members under the leadership of party president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Calling on S46 members to forget their dispute with Umno, Tengku Razaleigh said the merger with Umno constituted the climax in the rise of Malay nationalism as the country approaches the 21st Century.

The openness of the Umno leadership had encouraged S46 to consider efforts to return to Umno together, he said.

He drew the attention of the delegates to successful peace-making efforts by the Muslim peoples of Bosnia and Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

"It can't be that the Malays in Malaysia do not want peace too," he said to loud cheers.

He said the effort to re-unite was also influenced by the spirit of the 50th anniversary of Malay unity first established in 1946.

If the Malays of that period representing diverse groups could unite in Umno, he said, their action could be emulated. -- BERNAMA

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