

11 MAY 1996

Razaleigh-Umno

VARYING REACTION BY S46 ON COOPERATION, SAYS KU LI

KUALA LUMPUR, May 11 (Bernama) -- Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said tonight the party's proposed cooperation with Umno had been well received by a majority of the S46 members.

Although there were varying reaction among party members initially, they agreed in principle with the proposal as it would contribute towards Malay unity, he said.

"(Although) they appear not too excited...But they agree if we cooperate," he told reporters at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Unification of the Malay Race Year '46 organised by S46 at the party's headquarters at Desa Pandan here.

About 2,000 members attended the ceremony including party deputy president Datuk Rais Yatim, permanent chairman Datuk Yusof Latif, secretary general Datuk Manan Osman, members of the party's supreme council and secretary general of Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) Dr Sanusi Osman.

Yesterday, Tengku Razaleigh said S46 would give their support and cooperation as a partner to the ruling party and to support the leadership of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Prime Minister.

Asked whether the S46 leadership would proceed with their plan to cooperate although there were disagreement among the S46 members, he said: "We did not make any decision. We are open...We will listen to their views and we cannot make a hasty decision.

Tengku Razaleigh said he would go on a nationwide tour to explain to party members on the proposed move so that they would get a clear picture and the actual objective of the proposed cooperation.

He also said that the proposal to dissolve S46 and subsequently for the members to join Umno did not arise now "because what I had said was that we cooperate with the ruling party".

Earlier in his speech, he said the party's proposal would begin with "establishing cooperation and relations as a partner with the ruling party".

"Even if there was unification later, it must be done after agreement is received from party members," he said, adding that so far negotiations at the top level were still going on.

"Trust in me that whatever decision we take, our principles and objectives will continue to be given priority, that is the cause of the Malays.

"We swam together. Sink or swim, we should be together. This is the difference between us and traitors or those who cross over," he said followed by loud applause and cheers of "Long Live the Malays" from the members present.

He also reminded S46 members not to be influenced by claims that the party had been dissolved because "actually our party still exists...still functioning and operating as usual."

Questioned by reporters later on the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat today that the state government might take action on Deputy Menteri Besar II Datuk Rozali Isohak following his allegations against the state government, Tengku Razaleigh said: "We will see what action will be taken...He actually wants to kick us out."

On the decision of the Kelantan state Exco recently that Rozali and Deputy Menteri Besar I, Haji Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman from PAS would seek

an audience with the Sultan of Kelantan regarding the proposed amendment to the state constitution to curb the powers of the ruler, Tengku Razaleigh said Rozali did not have to do it because "it is a problem between PAS and the palace". -- BERNAMA

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