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MANY FORMER S46 MEMBERS STILL NOT ABSORBED INTO UMNO

PETALING JAYA, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- Former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today "tens of thousands" of the dissolved party's members have yet to be absorbed into Umno although the process was supposed to have been completed early this year.

"In the Gua Musang parliamentary constituency, for example, only 100 out of 7,000 (former S46) members were accepted into Umno," he told reporters after launching a book -- "The Merican Clan: A Story of Courage and Destiny" -- here today.

The Gua Musang member of parliament said Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was surprised when he (Tengku Razaleigh) told him this today, and promised to seek a speedy solution to the matter.

Tengku Razaleigh said the absorption of S46 members into Umno was crucial to the BN's bid to wrest control of Kelantan from PAS, and as such should not be slighted.

He added that some 100,000 former S46 members had even given up submitting their membership application forms to Umno due to the delay. S46 was dissolved last October.

The book, by Datin Ragayah Eusoff, traces the trials and tribulations of the Merican family in Malaysia. -- BERNAMA

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