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Razaleigh asks ex-S46 members to be patient

TANJUNG TUALANG, Sun. - Former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today advised ex-S46 members in Kelantan to be patient in waiting for the approval of their applications to join Umno.

He said the process would take some time as there were a lot of technicalities that had to be settled before placing the members in the various Umno divisions in the State.

He said the delay was also because the Umno supreme council had decided that ex-S46 members could not continue their membership in the present divisions.

He was speaking to reporters after attending the wedding ceremony of Ahmad Kamal Yusof, 26, and Norasmariah Basir, 20.

Ahmad Kamal is the son of Batu Gajah Umno division head Yusof Kassim. Other VIPs who were present included Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib and his wife Raja Puan Sri Noora Ashikin Raja Abdullah, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar and Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Tengku Razaleigh was asked on complaints by some former S46 members that they have not received any answer on their applications to join Umno.

He said they should not worry as the supreme council had approved their membership and it was a matter of time before they would get the answer.

"Be patient. If the supreme council has approved, it is just a matter of time," he said, adding that he too had only recently received his Umno membership.

Tengku Razaleigh is now a member of the Gua Musang Bandar Hilir Umno division.

He said he held on to the commitment made by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that ex-S46 members had been accepted in Umno and were only waiting for placements in divisions in Kelantan Umno.

In Malacca, Umno members from former S46 lauded the State Umno's decision in allowing the formation of a new branch in Permatang Pasir Tengah near here.

They said the decision in allowing the formation of the branch which consisted mostly of former S46 members, showed that Umno was not treating them as "rejects".

Former State S46 information chief Abdul Rahman Anang said the new branch was allowed as there were more than 50 former S46 members who joined Umno in the area.

The branch was also allowed to hold its meeting this year, but not elections.

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