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Razaleigh-Umno

RAZALEIGH URGES EX-S46 MEMBERS TO BE PATIENT

BATU GAJAH, April 27 (Bernama) -- Former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) members who have applied to join Umno should be patient while awaiting confirmation of their membership, former S46 president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

He said he himself was only this week confirmed as a member of the Bandar Hilir Gua Musang branch by Umno headquarters although he had applied for membership as early as Oct 9 last year just after S46 was dissolved.

"The delay in the confirmation is probably due to several technical problems that need to be solved by Umno when placing former S46 members in existing Umno branches, especially in Kelantan," he told reporters after attending the wedding of Batu Gajah division Umno head Yusof Kassim's son in Tanjung Tualang near here.

Also present at the wedding between Ahmad Kamal Yusof and Norasmariah Basir were Perak Menteri Besar Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib, Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar and Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadzir.

Razaleigh said there was also a delay in establishing new Umno branches after the party's Supreme Council decided that former S46 members could not become Umno members through new branches, and should instead be placed in existing branches.

"They (former S46 members) got to wait and should not be worried as an agreement had been reached between me and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after it was approved by the Supreme Council," he said.

Asked if the move by some Umno branches to delay the applications of S46 members was an act of sabotage, Razaleigh said he did not know what happened at the lower levels but he was keeping to the agreement.

He said under the Umno Constitution, only the Supreme Council was responsible for approving membership applications from former opposition party members.

Razaleigh said former S46 members had submitted 200,000 applications to Umno headquarters last year. Besides that, there were also applications that were made through divisions and branches.

He said most applications from former S46 members had been approved by the Supreme Council, but could not give the total number.

He added, however, that only 30 to 40 per cent of the applications could not be approved due to problems with the information provided by the applicants, but the problems were being resolved.

Razaleigh said he would not interfere in the issue and would leave it to Umno to resolve the problems. -- BERNAMA

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