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Razaleigh-Outsiders

GOVT OPPONENTS RECRUITING OUTSIDE HELP ARE DOMESTICALLY WEAK

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Elements getting outside help to oppose the government are clearly not influential and lacking mass support domestically, Kelantan Umno liaison chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

Anti-government groups colluding with foreigners were clearly incapable of adopting democratic practices to pursue their cause, he said.

"If they enlist outside help, this speaks of their lack of influence and lack of strength to oppose the government according to healthy democratic practice," he said when approached by reporters at his residence upon returning from Kuala Lumpur.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in New York yesterday that the level of foreign intervention in the run-up to Malaysia's coming general election had been unusual with outsiders promoting and supporting the opposition.

Tengku Razaleigh said foreigners were indeed looking for opportunities to interfere in the country's internal affairs especially at times of political upheavals.

He said foreign intervention would spell disaster as experience showed that some countries became strife-torn causing the people to end up living in misery, let alone substantial damage to property.

"We in Malaysia are very worried that parties with vested interests or those bent on meddling in our own affairs would resort to causing strife," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh said Malaysians were capable of resolving their own problems based on democratic practices without foreign interference.

Meanwhile, Tengku Razaleigh, who is also Member of Parliament for Gua Musang, said Kelantan Umno might emulate the strategy adopted in last March Sabah state election which helped the Barisan Nasional (BN) to a resounding victory with Umno winning all the seats it contested.

"It has been an extraordinary victory because many people in the peninsula had predicted a narrow win if not total defeat for us. We'll learn the winning formula used by Sabah leaders," he said.

Tengky Razaleigh said the strategy would however have be adjusted accordingly because the political situation in Sabah and Kelantan was different.

Also speaking as a former finance minister and one of the people responsible for establishing Bank Islam, Tengku Razaleigh said he was proud of the bank's performance and profitability.

BIMB Holdings Bhd (BIMB), Bank Islam's parent company, recorded 333 per cent pre-tax and pre-tithe profit of RM102.41 million for the financial year ending last June 30.

-- BERNAMA

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