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Razaleigh-Umno

INCLUSION IN SUPREME COUNCIL UNEXPECTED, SAYS KU LI

KUALA TERENGGANU, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the move to allow him to attend Umno Supreme Council meetings has come as a surprise to him.

He thanked Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for giving him the trust.

"I myself did not know...I only learnt about it through the newspapers," he told reporters after meeting Kuala Terengganu Umno division members here today.

Dr Mahathir, after chairing the Supreme Council meeting last night, announced that Tengku Razaleigh could now sit in at its meetings by virtue of his position as Kelantan Umno head and also his role in Barisan Nasional's preparations for the next general election.

Tengku Razaleigh said his inclusion in Supreme Council meetings was an honour to Kelantan Umno and a heavy responsibility which he would discharge to the best of his ability.

He believed that his attendance would boost cooperation between state-level party leaders and help BN to return to power in Kelantan.

"Kelantan is still in PAS hands and God willing, with the help of all parties and cooperation of Kelantan Umno, maybe we can wrest power there...but we have to work hard," he said.

He also scoffed at the Kelantan Menteri Besar's political secretary Husam Musa's call to him to use his influence to write off the Kelantan government's RM550 million debt with the federal government.

"If they (PAS) cannot settle the debt, they should hand over power to us," he said.

"This shows that PAS is not capable of administering Kelantan, and because of this they have done nothing in their 10 years of ruling Kelantan," he said.

He said it was usual for states and even countries to have debts, but it was important to use the loans for economic and social development so that when the state has money it could settle the debt.

-- BERNAMA

SN YBY