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Umno-Razaleigh

KU LI CAN ATTEND SUPREME COUNCIL MEETINGS, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced tonight that Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah can attend supreme council meetings, a move to enhance the Barisan Nasional's preparations for the general election.

"We've decided to allow Tengku Razaleigh to sit in the meetings," said the Prime Minister after chairing the council's meeting here.

He said the decision was made in line with Tengku Razaleigh's position as the Kelantan Umno head who had played a big role in the state.

"Tengku Razaleigh will also contribute during the election campaigns and hence, he should know what we discuss in the supreme council," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on Tengku Razaleigh's performance since he took over the Kelantan Umno leadership on June 20.

" I find him to be effective as he can pool the Umno resources in Kelantan. He seem to receive good response," he said.

Pahang Menteri Besar Datuk Adnan Yaakob, who is not a supreme council member, has also been allowed to attend the meeting.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob is still the Pahang Umno Liaison chief and State BN chairman.

Following tonight's decision, Tengku Razaleigh is expected to attend the next supreme council meeting.

Dr Mahathir said Tengku Razaleigh's effective leadership was evident when the PAS-led Kelantan government sought his assistance to ask the federal government to write off the state government's debts.

On Saturday, Kelantan Menteri Besar's political secretary Husam Musa appealed to the good office of Tengku Razaleigh to help influence the federal government to waive the state government's RM550 million in unpaid debts.

Asked whether the federal government was prepared to do so, Dr Mahathir said in jest: "This matter need to be referred to First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

Dr Mahathir was also asked on a report in the New York-based "The Wall Street Journal" which quoted most fund managers as saying that a "dominant victory" for the BN coalition would be better for the local stock market.

He said: "It shows that they are confident with the BN, I'm also surprised. Earlier, they were not that confident but now they are. We are thankful."

-- BERNAMA

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