

31 AUG 1999

Razaleigh-Swear

KU LI SWEARS PAS RENEGED ON ITS PROMISES

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno Liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today swore in front of thousands of Kelantanese to prove that PAS only made promises but did not honour them.

Addressing some 40,000 people here, he related his experiences working together with PAS when he was leading Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) which formed a coalition with the former under Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah in the state.

He said that right from the start, Pas leaders motives were suspect as they refused to put in writing many of the matters mutually agreed upon such as upholding the Islamic way of life or "Ad-din".

"Till today, the Islamic way of life has merely remained as Pas' political slogan. If Pas could refuse to agree to uphold the Islamic way of life, what more can we expect of them for other promises made," he said at the mammoth gathering at the state Umno building grounds.

Hence, Pas was exploiting Islam for their political gains, said Razaleigh.

He said Pas reneged on its promises made during the 1990 general election when they deliberately "planted" candidates to create three-cornered fights in the Serada State and Marang Parliamentary seats in Terengganu.

It had earlier been agreed that S46 candidates would be fielded for the two seats.

After the 1990 general election results were known, PAS immediately had an audience with the Sultan of Kelantan to present the State Exco line-up without consulting the coalition partners although the victory had been a joint effort by all component parties of the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah.

"The PAS' excuse was that there was no written agreement on the power sharing, whereas this had already been agreed upon. Among the power sharing principles after winning in the Malay majority states namely in Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah and Perlis, were that the PAS representative would become Menteri Besar and the S46 representative would be the Deputy Menteri Besar," he said.

Razaleigh ended his speech by reciting "Bismillahir rahmanir rahim, Wallahi, Wabillahi, watallahi. I swear in the name of Allah that whatever I have said about my relations with PAS were the truth."

"We want the explicit truth. There's no other way for me to prove the truth of what I've said, except to swear in the name of Allah on this historic day in front of you whom I love dearly," he said to the crowd's thunderous applause.

He also said that PAS gave excuses for not implementing the Hudud law as had been promised, saying that the Sultan had not signed the amended enactment whereas he had done so.

PAS failed to fulfil its promises contained in its manifesto during every general election such as implementing Islamic policies in all administrative matters, or establishing the Hizbah Commission to create a clean government, he said.

"At the same time PAS wavered in the matter concerning Malay unity when they initially supported my intention to meet with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a meeting on June 19, 1995," Razaleigh said.

"None of them raised any objection to my intention to attend the meeting and in fact encouraged it, however when the meeting was made, there

were some who accused me of being insincere," he said.

Thus, he said PAS parted company with Barisan Nasional (BN) not because BN rejected any PAS proposal on Islam but merely because the party was power-crazy.

"So, there's no difference between PAS and all other worldly political parties. PAS is only a political party created by human beings, PAS leaders are not prophets," he said, adding that the people of Kelantan should reject PAS in the coming general election.

He said the people of Kelantan must make a change by giving their trust to BN to administer the state after having given PAS the mandate for 10 years and yet the party failed to bring development.

Earlier, before the afternoon or "Asar" prayers, Razaleigh together with Kelantan Umno ulamas and leaders performed "hajat" prayers at the Muhammadi Mosque, about 400 metres from the Umno building.

Also present at the gathering were Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa, Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed and Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali.

Asked on the response by the people of Kelantan for the gathering organised by the state Umno, he said a majority of the people in the state especially the younger generation still supported Umno.

He said the younger generation appeared to have lost confidence in PAS because after having been in power for almost 10 years in the state not much job opportunities had been created so much so that there were people who remained unemployed and had to move to other states.

"Maybe now they are hoping that Umno would look after their interest and future, and this Umno will do, God willing," Razaleigh added.

-- BERNAMA

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