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BN-Silver (Kelantan)

LEARN FROM MAY 13 INCIDENT, SAYS RAZALEIGH

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 24 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today called on the people to learn from the May 13 riots in 1969 that the country will be destroyed if there is no peace.

He said the bloody racial clashes took place due to lack of racial equality and unity at the time.

"The chaos in the country then was because there was no fair distribution of wealth and social well-being. This sparked off enmity," he told the state-level BN Silver Jubilee celebrations at Kompleks Yayasan Kemiskinan Kelantan in Peringat near here.

Razaleigh said there was a clear disparity between Malays and non-Malays in various fields at the time.

"Malays were seen as politically strong but economically weak while non-Malays were economically strong but weak in terms of politics," he said.

He said when both sides tried to show their strength, there were squabbles which resulted in bloodshed.

Razaleigh said the New Economic Policy introduced in 1971 had succeeded in removing the gap between the Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras in the economic and other fields including education.

"The formula that was introduced overcame shortcomings in the society, reduced poverty and restructured society," he said.

The new policy allowed Bumiputeras to hold at least a 30 per cent stake in companies, he added.

Razaleigh said the PAS government in Kelantan had failed to bring progress to the state and called on the people to vote for the BN in the coming general election.

He said the BN government led by Umno had proven its capability in developing the country and bringing progress to its multi-racial and multi-religious people.

About 30,000 people attended the celebrations, including state BN chairman Datuk Annuar Musa and vice-chairman Datuk Mustapa Mohamed, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Paduka Ibrahim Ali and state MCA and MIC leaders.

They earlier watched a live telecast of the national-level celebrations in Kuala Lumpur including the speech by BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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