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Razaleigh-Mahathir

MAHATHIR IMPRESSED WITH NEW KELANTANESE SPIRIT

KOTA BAHARU, July 23 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was impressed with the attitudinal change among Kelantanese that he observed during his latest visit to the state.

Tengku Razaleigh said Dr Mahathir expressed confidence that such change would bode well for the Kelantanese themselves and the state's future well-being.

"The prime minister said we can do a lot of things if the people give us back the mandate (to rule Kelantan) in the coming general election. He (Dr Mahathir) is very pleased with current developments in Kelantan," Tengku Razaleigh said.

Tengku Razaleigh was speaking to reporters who approached him at his residence here for an assessment of the prime minister's two-day working visit to Kelantan which ended today.

Earlier Tengku Razaleigh joined scores of party and government leaders to see off Dr Mahathir at the airport.

Tengku Razaleigh said the people at large have now endorsed the prime minister's and the federal government's earnest desire to bring greater progress to Kelantan.

"Like during the journey to the airport (for the flight home) just now, people were lining up the five-foot way in front of the shops. Because of the dark window screens, I suggested that we bring them down, the people applauded and waved at him (Dr Mahathir), he's very impressed," Tengku Razaleigh said.

He said Dr Mahathir also assured him that he would give full-backing to each of the suggestion or decision adopted by Kelantan Umno.

Tengku Razaleigh also discounted any desire to take over chairmanship of the Kelantan Barisan Nasional currently held by Datuk Annuar Musa, who is also Kelantan Umno deputy liaison chief.

For him, it sufficed just to be tasked with leading the state Umno, Tengku Razaleigh said.

When the matter was raised during yesterday's dialogue between the prime minister with heads of department, Dr Mahathir said Annuar, who is also Rural Development Minister, would continue being Kelantan BN chairman.

Dr Mahathir, who is also BN chairman, said the move would enable all Kelantan leaders to cooperate with one another.

-- BERNAMA

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