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Razaleigh-PAS

NIK AZIZ STOPPED PAS FROM REJOINING BN, SAYS RAZALEIGH

MACHANG, July 30 (Bernama) -- PAS, together with three other opposition parties, once agreed to rejoin the Barisan Nasional (BN) but this was opposed by PAS council of ulamas chief Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, said Kelantan Umno liaison committee chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

"PAS, together with Parti Melayu Semangat 46, Berjasa and Hamim, when in the Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah had once reached agreement on rejoining the BN to strengthen Malay solidarity and Islam," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh, then president of the now defunct Semangat 46, said his joint effort with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad did not materialise because Nik Aziz "who was not aware of its noble aim, criticised it without checking the facts".

"(PAS president Datuk) Fadzil Nor, maybe in order not to hurt the feelings of Nik Aziz, had to end the agreement," he said after receiving applications to join Umno by 30 former PAS members in Kampung Pangkal Cuit here last night.

Tengku Razaleigh said PAS could not deny the existence of the agreement as "records of it" were still in the party's custody.

Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah was an opposition pact formed to face the BN in the 1990 general election during which it managed to win control of Kelantan from the BN.

The pact ended after Semangat 46 was dissolved in 1996.

PAS, together with DAP, Parti Rakyat Malaysia and Parti Keadilan Nasional, have now agreed on an opposition pact for the coming general election.

Tengku Razaleigh said he was confident the BN would be able to defeat the opposition pact which did not have the support of the people.

He said based on Umno's latest analysis, the opposition pact only had a little support in Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu.

-- BERNAMA

WM MAI THG