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Razaleigh: Apology was to dispel doubt

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Kelantan Umno liaison committee chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said his open apology on Thursday to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would help remove doubts among their followers.

He said it would also help foster closer relationship and deeper understanding among Umno members to gear up for the polls.

"This is to enable us to close the case and to ensure there is no more doubts. Therefore, no one can use this as an issue anymore against us."

At a meeting with Umno members on Thursday, Tengku Razaleigh apologised to Dr Mahathir "for my past mistakes". Dr Mahathir in accepting Tengku Razaleigh's apology, felt he himself had made mistakes and extended an apology to Tengku Razaleigh.

It was the first time the two leaders had spoken openly of their bitter political differences since Tengku Razaleigh challenged Dr Mahathir in 1987 for the party's top post.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is MP for Gua Musang, expressed hope their gesture would be passed on to the grass roots members.

He said Islam encouraged its followers to forgive mistakes and Malay culture promoted it as well.

"Although we may not make mistakes, who knows, unintentionally we may have committed them and hurt another's feelings," he said.

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