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Razaleigh-Ashamed

RAZALEIGH IS ASHAMED THAT KELANTAN IS BACKWARD UNDER PAS RULE

KOTA BAHARU, July 21 (Bernama) -- Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today he was ashamed that his home state, Kelantan, which is under PAS rule, is lagging far behind in terms of development compared to the other states.

"I am ashamed that Kelantan is lagging behind...because if we look at the other places where the Barisan Nasional (BN) is in power, they have all achieved development," he told reporters here.

The Kelantan Umno Liaison head said he would strive to bring development to Kelantan just like the other states but this could only be achieved if the BN ruled the state again.

He said this when asked to comment on the statement by PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor in a ceramah in Tumpat last night that the BN only made empty promises about bringing development to the people of Kelantan if the BN ruled the state.

Tengku Razaleigh, the member of Parliament for Gua Musang, said PAS was actually responsible for Kelantan and its people being left out of the mainstream of development when its leaders did not discharge their responsibility properly.

"He (Fadzil) can say that because they don't do anything, (they) only like to blame others. I feel his statement was not correct because as a leader he must be responsible. The Rakyat must be given comfort, (it is) not the leaders only who live in comfort," he said.

Asked on the move by former Tumpat Umno division head Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar to join PAS, Tengku Razaleigh said such an act would not threaten Umno's strength in the division.

In fact the move by Kamaruddin -- who is considered a close friend of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim -- showed that he himself had no confidence in Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) which was formed by Anwar's supporters.

On the statement by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat against the recruitment of beautiful women, he said it proved that PAS was ignoring the role of women in this country and encouraged them to stay at home without making any contribution.

It explained the PAS attitude on the treatment for women. PAS claimed to champion the cause of Islam but they had ignored what had been practised by Muslim leaders in the past, he said.

"I don't understand why he is doing all this. Probably he is unable to control his desires, that's why he wants to sideline the women," Tengku Razaleigh said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad described the statement by Nik Abdul Aziz as not logical and was a discrimination against women.

Tengku Razaleigh said Umno, on the contrary, had always given opportunities to women to improve themselves and contribute towards national development.

"We in Umno like to give equal opportunity to everyone, in terms of salary and income as long as it is not against Islamic teachings," he said.

He also challenged PAS to retrench all the women currently employed by the state government to implement the PAS policy.

Earlier, Tengku Razaleigh held a meeting with Kelantan Umno Wanita leaders with regard to preparations for the coming general election.

-- BERNAMA

RAR AO