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Razaleigh appointed Umno Supreme Council member

Lokman Mansor

TENGGU Razaleigh Hamzah has been named a member of the Umno Supreme Council, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur last night, he said Razaleigh's membership to the council is by virtue of his earlier appointment as Kelantan Umno liaison chief.

Dr Mahathir said as state Umno liaison chief, it is important for Razaleigh to be aware of discussions and decisions made during the Umno Supreme Council meetings.

Asked if there were other reasons for Razaleigh's appointment, he said:

"He has contributed to Umno in Kelantan, and I am sure he will also contribute to the party when the elections are held".

Asked for his assessment of Razaleigh since heading Umno in Pas-led Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said he has been effective in mobilising Umno in the state.

"Even Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz is seeking Razaleigh's help to meet the Federal Government to write off the state's debts, so they must also feel that Razaleigh is very effective," he added.

On a reported denial by Pas leaders that the state has debts, Dr Mahathir said: "They can say what they like. The accounts are there, and the banks has records of who they lend to".

Earlier, he said the Supreme Council meeting discussed preparations for the coming elections and heard feedback reports from the state leaders. They also stressed the importance of checking the electoral roll once it is displayed.

On his own visits to the states, Dr Mahathir said the response has been very good, with large turnouts and sincere support shown by the thousands who came to see him and hear him speak.

"They were very friendly, wanting to shake hands and wave goodbye when we leave. They brought their children as well. We are happy with the response," he added.

The Prime Minister said he will continue with his tour of the states, including two days each in the Federal Territory and Selangor.

"When I complete the first round (of visits), I will continue with a second round and after that a third round, and so on and so forth," he said.

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