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Razaleigh says no to leading Kelantan Umno

KOTA BARU, Wed. - Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today expressed his reservations about the possibility of him being offered to lead Kelantan Umno.

"I feel there is no need to consider me. I'm happy to be like this (a normal Umno member) and don't think I can accept the offer," he said.

Speaking to reporters on arrival at the Sultan Ismail Petra Airport in Pengkalan Chepa today, he said the State Umno liaison chairman's post would normally be held by the Menteri Besar, a Minister or Deputy Minister. "I don't have that criteria," he added.

Tengku Razaleigh, who was president of the defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46, reaffirmed his statement made during the Semangat 46's dissolution about three years ago that his return to Umno was not to seek a post in the party.

"I did not impose any condition and I prefer to serve the party as a normal member. No one is indispensable," he added.

To a question that certain quarters in Kelantan are counting on him for the post with the hope that it would strengthen the State Umno, Tengku Razleigh said he did not think that it would. "I will continue to serve the party. I cannot accept because I don't have the criteria. There are other people more capable who can contribute more for the party," he added.

On the post of Umno deputy president which is still vacant, Tengku Razaleigh said he had been approached by many quarters to offer himself for the post. "I told them I have no plan. Even without holding any post, I can still help the party," he added.

On Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's appointment as the Deputy Prime Minister, Tengku Razaleigh said he believed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had studied it thoroughly before making the decision.

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