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Razaleigh-Appointment

RAZALEIGH SUPPORTS ABDULLAH BADAWI'S APPOINTMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- The appointment of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as deputy prime minister is the right choice as he is qualified for the post, former Umno vice-president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said tonight.

"According to the Umno tradition, if there is a vacancy for the post of deputy prime minister, one of the vice-presidents is eligible for appointment. This has been the Umno tradition all along," he told reporters after presenting zakat aid at a breaking of fast organised by the Cheras Umno division, here.

Tengku Razaleigh, who was among those tipped for the post, said he was not disappointed at not being selected because he was not a contender.

"I'm not qualified because I'm not in the Umno hierarchy. I'm only an ordinary member. Abdullah's appointment is the right choice," he, adding that the rumours that he would be appointed were mere speculations.

"I'm not a contender. It's just speculation. I've told my friends that I'm not qualified," he added.

Abdullah's appointment as deputy prime minister and home minister was announced in a cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday. He takes office tomorrow.

Tengku Razaleigh urged the people to give their support and cooperation to the new cabinet line-up to help them overcome the problems faced by the nation, especially in facing the next general election," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh also said that the government should set up an independent commission to investigate the injuries suffered by former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim while in police custody.

Such a commission would make the government more transparent, he said.

Several parties had called for the setting up of an independent panel to look into the matter after Attorney-General Mohtar Abdullah confirmed that police were responsible for the injuries inflicted on Anwar while under detention in the Bukit Aman lock-up in September last year.

Tengku Razaleigh said that should the commission find that there had been an abuse of the law, legal action should be taken against those responsible.

-- BERNAMA

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