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Razaleigh: I am happy with line-up

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Kelantan Umno liaison committee chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today said he was satisfied with the new Cabinet line-up announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed yesterday.

"Not everyone (who won in the election) should be in the Cabinet and not everybody can be in the Cabinet. Hence, the ones appointed have met the criteria set by the Prime Minister.

"I'm happy with the new line-up and am confident that they will be able to perform their duties and responsibilities well," he added.

On Datuk Dr Rais Yatim's appointment as Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Tengku Razaleigh said he was confident that Rais would be able to play his role in assisting Dr Mahathir.

On the absence of representation from Kelantan in the Cabinet, Tengku Razaleigh said he accepted the explanation given by Dr Mahathir on the matter.

Representatives from Kelantan and Terengganu have to be appointed senators first before appointment to the Cabinet.

However, Dr Mahathir had said that there was currently no vacancy in the Senate and that he would have to wait until there is vacancy.

When asked whether he was offered any post in the Cabinet, Tengku Razaleigh, the sole BN MP who won in Kelantan, said there was no offer made to him.

"Perhaps, I did not meet the criteria wanted by the Prime Minister. I am satisfied and being on the outside, I'll have more time for the party, especially to strengthen Malay support for Umno.

He also said the Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee would meet next week and expected to decide on the course of action to be taken following the party's poor performance in the election.

"I'm not important. I'm involved in this (appointed as State Umno Liaison Committee chief and contested for the Gua Musang parliamentary seat) not because I want to be a Cabinet member or to be a member of the administration."

"I was a `gurkha' from the beginning and still am a `gurkha'," he added.

(END)