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Razaleigh: BN can wrest Kelantan from Pas in next polls

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GUA MUSANG, Sat. - Kelantan Umno liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah is confident the Barisan Nasional will wrest the State from Pas in the next general election.

He said the BN was able to garner 46 per cent of the total votes in the 1995 general election.

"We will be able to get back the State (in the next general election) if we are able to get six per cent more," he added.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is also Gua Musang Umno division head, said the additional votes could be obtained if the Umno election machinery and other BN component parties worked hard for the election.

"We may have that three or four per cent with the return of former Parti Melayu Semangat 46 members ... we just need to get two per cent more.

"But we have to work hard as there are among us those who, due to frustration or dissatisfaction, may have detached themselves from the party," he said after a gathering with Felda settlers at Ciku 3 yesterday.

However, the former S46 president said Umno members who had shied away from the party were now back.

"They are back (with Umno) and more spirited ... if we can mobilise them, it will further strengthen Umno and God willing, we can win."

In his speech, Tengku Razaleigh advised the settlers to evaluate for themselves the State Government's performance under Pas.

"Pas has been in power for about nine years. What has it done to improve the livelihood of the people and also the State. If it (Pas State Government) has not done anything, but is only spending the people's money, there is no reason we should retain it in power because what we need is a party capable of bringing change."

Referring to the time when Kelantan was under Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah, an alliance between Pas and S46, Tengku Razaleigh said Pas had promised to turn Kelantan into an Islamic State.

"I gave my full support and helped to organise a forum where representatives from various religions were invited and we explained the hudud law.

"But until now Pas had done nothing to implement hudud law," he added.

Tengku Razaleigh said he had asked Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat the reason hudud law was not implemented despite being passed by the State Assembly.

"Nik Aziz said `susah sikit, Mahathir marah'. Nik Aziz, despite being a tok guru, fears another human being more than he fears God."

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