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Razaleigh-Umno

KU LI: I'VE NO PLANS YET TO CONTEST ANY POST IN UMNO

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno Liaison chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today he has no plans yet to vie for any post in the party election in May.

"In fact, I've not thought about it," he told reporters when asked whether he intended to contest in the party polls.

Razaleigh said he might not suit the criteria to contest taking into account the suggestion that only those holding minister and deputy minister posts should be allowed to vie for supreme council positions.

"If I'm not even eligible to contest to be a member of the supreme council, maybe I'm not qualified to vie for other party positions (like president, deputy president and vice-president)," he said.

The supreme council in its meeting on Monday unanimously proposed that the posts of party president and deputy president should not be contested in the party election.

The council also made a stand that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be renominated for the president's post and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for the deputy presidency.

Dr Mahathir said in Alor Setar yesterday that it was up to the divisions to abide by the supreme council's advice.

He said divisions have the right to nominate anyone for the president and deputy president's posts in the election as Umno practised democracy.

Razaleigh said he was leaving it to the current situation to make a decision if divisions nominated him to contest.

"I'll see first, I don't know for what position. I feel I'll remain a gurkha," said the Gua Musang Member of Parliament, the sole parliamentary seat held by Umno in Kelantan.

He said his duty now was to convey to the divisions the supreme council's stand that the posts of president and deputy president should not be contested.

"With such an advice from the higher ups, people at the grassroots level will usually abide by it. Maybe, nobody will dare to nominate anyone," he said.

Razaleigh also said it was not proper to use money, government machinery, civil servants and agencies to campaign to secure party positions.

"If that is the case, people in power will have the advantage of using all the facilities at their disposal for their self-interest while those with no positions can never match the influence of the people in power," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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