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Rais-Razaleigh

RAIS PROPOSES PENALTY ON THOSE INSISTING ON RAZALEIGH'S CANDIDACY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 17 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim has proposed some kind of "political penalty" on quarters still insisting that Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah should vie for the Umno presidency or deputy president's post in the party polls in May.

"If Tengku Razaleigh himself has declined to stand and despite this, there are still quarters urging him to contest, then these groups are actually those who care less about Umno and are bent on seeing the party divided," he said.

Rais told this to reporters who approached him at Parliament House lobby here today on a newspaper report of Tengku Razaleigh declaring he would not contest in the coming Umno elections.

Rais urged Umno leaders at large to identify these groups and apply a democratically appropriate penalty on them permissible by Umno.

According to Rais, Tengku Razaleigh's decision not to contest in the coming party polls exemplified the stature of his leadership and selflessness.

Rais said Tengku Razaleigh, who is Kelantan Umno liaison chief, was willing to set aside his political ambitions for the sake of party unity and resilience.

"This augurs well for Umno's efforts to regain the glory of its heydays," he added.

The Umno Supreme Council had proposed no contest for the presidency and the deputy president's post besides renominating Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to continue as party president.

The council had also proposed that Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for the deputy presidency.

-- BERNAMA
NHA MAI RYN