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Razaleigh-Petition/BM

SEVERAL PETITIONS TO BE FILED TO NULLIFY ELECTION RESULTS

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 13 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno liaison chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today several petitions will be filed to nullify the election results in several constituencies in the state in the last general election for alleged irregularities.

He said the matter had been referred to the Umno legal panel for advice on whether the cases raised by the voters, supporters and candidates had strong grounds for action.

"We (Umno) don't want irregularities to continue to influence the election results...corruption using money, using influence surely do not ensure a fair and transparent election," he told reporters after the Kelantan Umno liaison committee meeting, here.

On Jan 6, a retired teacher filed a petition in the High Court here seeking to nullify the election result in the Pasir Mas parliamentary constituency, claiming corruption.

The seat was won by PAS candidate Ismail Noh who garnered 23,967 votes to beat the Barisan Nasional's (BN) Datuk Ibrahim Ali who polled 15,392 votes.

Tengku Razaleigh said the next petitions to be filed would involve the Jeli and Peringat parliamentary constituencies.

Mohamad Apandi Mohamad of polled 15,523 votes against BN candidate Datuk Mustapa Mohamed's 14,830 to win the Jeli seat while the Peringat seat was won by Parti Keadilan Nasional's (Keadilan) Muhammad Mustafa who obtained 19,481 votes against BN's Datuk Annuar Musa who garnered 14,956 votes.

Tengku Razaleigh said the meeting today decided to leave it to the branches and divisions to decide whether or not there should be no contest for the Umno presidency and deputy presidency in the May party elections.

He said the Kelantan Umno respected the decision of the supreme council which had unanimously proposed that there be no contest and that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad be retained as the party president and vice-president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi be nominated for the deputy presidency.

At the same time, he said, it respected Dr Mahathir's statement that it was up to all the Umno divisions whether or not to adopt the supreme council's suggestion.

-- BERNAMA

BD JK