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Razaleigh-Denial

TENGGU RAZALEIGH DENIES JAPANESE LANGUAGE DAILY REPORT

KOTA BAHARU, March 2 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today denied a Japanese language daily report stating that he will free former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim if he becomes prime minister.

Tengku Razaleigh said that he never issued any statement over the matter which was deliberately to pit him against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I never say such a thing...only a mad man will make such a statement," he told reporters after chairing the committee meeting at the Umno headquarters, here.

Tengku Razaleigh said this when asked to comment on the report today, stating that he would free Anwar if he holds the position of prime minister.

"I never held any press conference lately and the report is purposely to make Dr Mahathir and the people angry with me," he said.

He regarded the report as mischievous especially in the run-up to the Umno election in May.

Tengku Razaleigh himself never touched on matters related to Anwar even during the general election campaign.

"I do not know why they want to raise the matter as actually it has nothing to do with the (Umno) election," he said.

Meanwhile, Tengku Razaleigh said that only three of the 14 Umno divisions in Kelantan had not fixed the dates of their delegates' conferences.

He said that the three divisions were Machang, Bachok and Rantau Panjang.

"The earliest meeting will be held on March 11 and the last on March 31 and all will be opened by the respective division heads in line with the directive from the headquarters," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh earlier held a meeting with the state Wanita Umno and Umno Youth movements.

-- BERNAMA

ZI/BD RM