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Khalil-Keadilan

KEADILAN MEMBERS MAY REJOIN UMNO WITHOUT ANY CONDITION, SAYS KHALIL

KUANTAN, Oct 28 (Bernama) -- Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today that Keadilan members who now wish to rejoin Umno following internal bickering in Keadilan will be accepted by the party without any condition imposed.

Khalil said that if Umno could accept members from other parties to join Umno, there was no reason for the party not to accept those who were former Umno members to rejoin the party.

Dismissing an allegation by Keadilan Youth secretary Mohamed Zahid Mohamed Arip that Keadilan members had been offered money by certain quarters to leave the party, he said that Umno would never resort to giving money to induce the Keadilan members to rejoin the party.

"While opening the door to Keadilan members to rejoin Umno, it'll never come to a stage where we'll buy them over," he told reporters after closing a jogathon organised by Sekolah Kebangsaan Galing here.

"In Keadilan, there is a large number of former Umno members...as a matter of principle, there is nothing to stop them from rejoining Umno," he said.

Khalil said that in the past, Parti Semangat 46 members who were mostly Umno members, had rejoined Umno en masse and he believed many Keadilan members who were Umno members now wish to rejoin Umno in the wake of internal frictions in Keadilan.

"If former S46 members were welcomed back into Umno, there should not be any difference when it comes to them (Keadilan members). If previously we've accepted S46 members, we'll accept them (Keadilan members) in accordance with past practice, without any condition," he said.

Asked to comment on the internal problem of Keadilan and whether the party would face the same fate as S46, Khalil said: "I do not wish to speculate."

"But from what we've seen, the party has no room to pursue the struggles to protect the fate of the people because even in the Sarawak election recently, it was obvious that the party was not of any interest to the voters," he said.

Asked to comment on the statement by PAS president Datuk Mohamed Fadzil Noor that PAS would not hand over the memorandum on its proposed Islamic state concept if the party was not provided the opportunity to explain the matter in parliament, telecast live over national television, Khalil said that PAS actually does not have anything concrete on the issue.

"Previously, PAS wanted us to state that we are an Islamic state and we have responded, then it (PAS) has asked for discussion between us whereas we have already asked them to sit down for a discussion a long time ago, (but) they (PAS) have given all sorts of excuses.

"Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) have already stated that Malaysia is an Islamic country...we chose the best forum, that is the Gerakan general assembly (recently) and this event was given wide media coverage," he said.

"At this juncture, I do not see any strong grounds for to have a live telecast," he said.

To another allegation by Mohamed Fadzil that the media would twist the facts in the memorandum, Khalil said: "How can the reporters twist facts if they are all contained in the memorandum."

-- BERNAMA

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