

22 JUN 2001

Umno-Razaleigh

LEADERS SHOULD TAKE CRITICISMS IN GOOD FAITH, SAYS KU LI

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today reminded Umno leaders to take criticisms by party members in good faith and should not get easily agitated as they are meant to put things right in Umno.

"We are not infallible. If we keep on making errors, people are bound to reprimand us especially in a democratic party such as ours," said Tengku Razaleigh, a former finance minister and former Umno vice president.

According to him, members' criticisms of present day Umno leaders were tame compared to those made during Umno was under the stewardship of the late first prime minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra.

Tengku Razaleigh was speaking to reporters who approached him on criticisms at the Umno leadership by members debating the presidential address at the Umno General Assembly here today.

Umno leaders would have to learn to take criticisms even the harsh ones, he said.

"I had my fair share of criticisms hurled at me, People accused me of doing all of sorts of things, that I took money, but I just kept quiet. In the meantime we must carry out our work and eventually the people will accept us provided we are genuinely sincere," he said.

Asked on speculation touting him as becoming the next Finance Minister following Tun Daim Zainuddin's resignation from the post, Tengku Razaleigh said it was started by the media.

He said there are other Malaysians, including those among Umno members, qualified to hold the position.

"I never apply for the job I leave it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. There are so many other people qualified and eligible for the post," he said.

Following Daim's resignation on June 1, Dr Mahathir is handling the finance portfolio.

-- BERNAMA

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