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Razaleigh-Unity

MALAY UNITY VITAL FOR STABILITY, SAYS RAZALEIGH

PASIR PUTEH, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- Umno is capable of uniting the Malays on its own but it would be better for all groups representing the Malays to be involved in such efforts, Umno Supreme Council member Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

He said Malay unity was important to prevent foreign elements from exploiting splits in the community to undermine the country's stability.

"The country's strength is dependent on the state of unity among the Malays, the majority race in this country," he told Bernama after simultaneously opening the meetings of Umno branches in the Pasir Puteh division here.

He said Malay unity had thwarted the British colonialists' bid to create Malayan Union before the country gained independence, and this showed the importance of preserving unity in the community.

PAS simply refused to understand Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's wish to hold unity talks between Umno and PAS, said Tengku Razaleigh who is MP for Gua Musang.

The talks were supposed to have been held on Feb 19 but were postponed by PAS which wants certain conditions to be fulfilled before it would proceed with the meeting.

Tengku Razaleigh said Malay unity was more important than the conditions imposed by PAS for the talks, which include a call for PAS' Harakah to be allowed to publish twice a week instead of fortnightly.

"If the situation in the country is jeopardised, foreigners might return to colonise it," he said.

The technical committees of the two parties have met several times to lay the groundwork for the Umno-initiated unity talks.

-- BERNAMA

WM BD YBY