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Ku Li-Mahathir

KU LI URGES PEOPLE TO ACCEPT DR MAHATHIR'S DECISION

KOTA BAHARU, June 23 (Bernama) -- Former Finance Minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah today urged the people including Umno members to accept the fact that sooner or later Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would relinquish his post as the country's prime minister.

"Eventually everyone will have to relinquish their posts, including myself. Nothing last forever. This is the reality which we must accept and prepare for," he told reporters on arrival from Kuala Lumpur at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport in Pengkalan Chepa here.

As such, he said the Umno leadership should prepare themselves to accept the trust and responsibilities once the prime minister finally decided to relinquish his posts in Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN).

Tengku Razaleigh, who is also the Member of Parliament for Gua Musang, was asked to comment the event yesterday that shocked the nation when Dr Mahathir offered and withdrew his resignation as Umno president and BN chairman on the last day of the Umno general assembly.

Tengku Razaleigh said everyone should respect any decision made by Dr Mahathir including the designation to resign.

"Dr Mahathir is a paramount leader. I believe as a leader with vast experience he would have considered all matters," he said.

He said Umno and the Malays however had the right to ask Dr Mahathir to reconsider his decision and to respect the party's decision to ask him to continue to hold all his posts.

Meanwhile in SEPANG, Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein refuted claims by certain quarters that Dr Mahathir's decision was a mere drama.

He said what transpired yesterday was broadcast live on television and the people could assess for themselves what they had seen.

"They have eyes, (they) can see. (They) have ears, (they) can hear and (they) have brains to think," he said when commenting on claims by certain groups that Dr Mahathir's move was a drama.

He said this at a media conference after witnessing the Japan GT race at the Sepang Circuit, today.

Hishammuddin also confirmed that Umno Youth had held its meeting yesterday on the matter and called on the Youth exco members to explain the real situation to members of the movement.

-- BERNAMA

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