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Razaleigh-Umno

UMNO NEEDS MIX OF OLD AND NEW FACES, SAYS RAZALEIGH

GUA MUSANG, Jan 25 (Bernama) -- Umno has no plans to fully hand over the reins to the younger members as power transition would take time to ensure continuity in the party's struggle, Supreme Council member Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said.

He said Umno leaders should not be quick in announcing their readiness to step down to pave the way for the younger set to take over their positions in the party and government.

"Such hasty moves will have adverse effects on the party's struggle, which still requires a blend of old and new leaders," he told reporters after chairing the Gua Musang Umno division monthly meeting in Bukit Chekati here last night.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is Gua Musang Umno head and MP for Gua Musang, said this when asked to comment on the willingness of many Umno leaders, including the Pahang Menteri Besar and state Exco members, to step down in favour of new faces in the next general election.

Tengku Razaleigh said although Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said leaders who were no longer effective should withdraw, he did not mean all old leaders should step down.

"The prime minister was only emphasising a point to those with problems, like being involved in wrongdoing, corruption, who are unfair and could no longer lead the people; they are the ones asked to step down," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh said any restructuring of the party leadership should get the support and cooperation of all members.

"With this we can send the correct message to the people to support us and the principles that Umno stands for," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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