

08 JUL 2004

Razaleigh-KIMMA

KIMMA URGES KU LI TO RECONSIDER INTENTION TO GO FOR TOP POST

KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- The Kongres India Muslim Malaysia (KIMMA) today urged Gua Musang pro tem Umno head Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah to reconsider his intention to run for the top post in Umno during the party's annual general assembly in September.

KIMMA Secretary-General Ahmad Tajuddin Abdul Majid felt if Tengku Razaleigh went ahead with his intention it would not only destabilise Umno but also upset the "feel good scenario" in the country at present.

"Moreover the intention in itself undermines the wisdom of former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in naming Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as his successor," KIMMA said in a statement.

During a recent meeting with the press, Tengku Razaleigh had expressed his readiness to contest for the top post in Umno if nominated even though the Umno Supreme Council (MT) had resolved that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak be returned unopposed as president and deputy president respectively. Abdullah is now acting president while Najib is a vice president carrying out the duties of the Umno deputy president. There is no provision in the Umno Constitution for an acting deputy president.

Tengku Razaleigh's statement has given rise to speculation that if nominated the former Finance Minister will run for president or at least for deputy president.

According to Ahmad Tajuddin, the wisdom and far-sightedness of Dr Mahathir, in naming Abdullah as his successor had not only been accepted by Malaysians but also by the entire world.

"Apart from abiding by the MT's decision, Tengku Razaleigh should also respect Dr Mahathir's decision," he said.

Abdullah and Najib should be given all the opportunity to focus on uniting the race so that Malay domination would always be preserved, the KIMMA Secretary-General said.

Ahmad Tajuddin said KIMMA, which had some 300,000 members in 60 branches nationwide, felt the Barisan Nasional's huge success in the March general election, including its ability to recapture Terengganu from PAS and reducing the opposition influence in Kelantan, was a manifestation of the widespread support for Abdullah's leadership.

Hence it would be most appropriate for this situation to be maintained and for the Umno tradition of deciding the national leadership of the country since the time of the first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj to be preserved.

The KIMMA leader urged Tengku Razaleigh to make his stand clear on the issue and advised his supporters to put a stop to any move, on the pretext of democracy, that could divide Umno.

-- BERNAMA

AM AM AAM