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Razaleigh-Contest

KU LI DOES NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY OF CONTESTING TOP POST

KOTA BAHARU, July 1 (Bernama) -- Umno Supreme Council member Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has again raised a poser on the party post he is vying, stressing that he would be contesting if nominated for any top post in Umno that he "feels is suitable" for him.

"If there are those who feel that I can still serve and contribute to the party, why not? If there are nominations, I will offer myself for a post that suits me...it depends on your interpretation (on the post that he would go for)," he told reporters here yesterday.

He made similar remarks at Gua Musang a fortnight ago.

Tengku Razaleigh had previously contested for the Umno Presidency in 1987 but lost to the former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir by 43 votes.

He also vied for the Umno deputy presidency in 1981 and 1984 but lost to Datuk (now Tan Sri) Musa Hitam on both occasions.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is also Gua Musang Member of Parliament, said in the party elections in 2000, he chose to keep quiet since he was still new in the "New Umno".

"In 2000, I repeatedly said that I did not want to contest but people said that I wanted to and they wanted me to contest until it a little confusion at that time.

"This time around, I have no desire to contest but due to the persuasion and pressure from various quarters, I need to reply. I will not run away from responsibility," he said.

Hence, he termed Umno's steps to implement conditional democracy, which included preventing candidates from campaigning, as unreasonable because it could hamper the party's efforts in bringing in new members to contribute to the party.

"Our country implements the system of democracy in the proper way but why we (Umno), as a party that governs this democratic country, cannot practise democracy with transparency...this is a bit strange," he said.

Tengku Razaleigh said this when commenting on the quota system in the nomination for all positions in the party which is currently implemented by Umno.

The conditions stipulate that each individual who wants to vie for the presidency needs 30 per cent nomination from the divisions, the deputy presidency (20 per cent), vice presidency (10 per cent) and to be a Supreme Council member, five per cent.

He said the Umno leaders need not worry about abolishing the conditions because they would still be chosen if they were truly capable.

-- BERNAMA

SHI TSY AO