

18 JUL 2004

Zainuddin-Razaleigh

TENGGU RAZALEIGH SHOULD ACCEPT FACT, SAYS ZAINUDIN

SUNGAI PETANI, July 18 (Bernama) -- Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah offered himself to contest for the post of Umno president because he needed to know for sure that Umno members had rejected him in the past and at present, said Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainudin Maidin.

"I believe he still has doubts over his narrow defeat to Tun (then Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the Umno presidential election in 1987," he told reporters after visiting six kampungs hit by strong winds in the Merbok parliamentary constituency near here.

He said Tengku Razaleigh probably sensed a change among Umno members under the leadership of acting president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"He views Pak Lah's victory in the last general as not the party's victory.

"In other words, he still questions Pak Lah's position in the party...thus Tengku Razaleigh feels the need to challenge Pak Lah," said Zainudin, who is also Merbok Umno Information Chief.

"To me, be it the failure to get enough nominations or be defeated in the presidential election must be accepted as the final decision of Umno and Umno members.

"He cannot view the quota on nominations as undemocratic because he participated in the process and would naturally accepted it if he were to win.

"So, if he lost, he should also accept this," said Zainudin, who is also the Member of Parliament (MP) for Merbok.

Tengku Razaleigh, who is MP for Gua Musang, has so far received only one nomination from his own division of Gua Musang to contest for the post of Umno president while Abdullah received most of the nominations. Umno has 191 divisions nationwide.

-- BERNAMA

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