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Nomination reversal for Ku Li

By M. Hamzah Jamludin; P. Chandra Segaran; Shahrum Sayuthi
IPOH, Fri. - If it had gone according to plan, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah would have received his first nomination for the post of president from the Batu Gajah division which met last night.

However, the division discarded the idea minutes before its meeting at about 9pm "for the sake of party unity".

"To preserve unity, we agreed to nominate Pak Lah (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) for president and (Datuk Seri) Najib Razak as his deputy," said division head Datuk Yusoff Kassim after the meeting.

Rumours were rife that the division would nominate Tengku Razaleigh or "Ku Li" for one of the two top posts in the party elections in September.

The division was the first to nominate him for the top post in 1987 when he took on Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He failed in his bid to topple the then party president, left Umno and formed Semangat 46.

Sources said that Ku Li's aides contacted Mohd Yusoff and ask for his support.

"We do not know what made him change his mind," said the source.

In Kuantan, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob today revealed that supporters of Tengku Razaleigh were working hard to try and secure nominations for him to contest the post of party president.

"I am not sure how they are going to conquer these divisions, but from what I gather they already have at least a runner in each State as their contact person," he said when met at his residence today.

He said that he will be going to the ground to convince divisions not to be swayed by Razaleigh's supporters.

"I am quite confident we can handle this situation and get everybody in Pahang to stick with the decision that Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Datuk Seri Najib Razak will not be challenged for the number one and two posts."

(END)