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Razaleigh tight-lipped about contest for presidency

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who last Friday offered to contest the Umno presidency, said today he would talk about his decision when the "time is right".

"I better not say anything now. This is not a matter that you talk outside (the party)."

The Gua Musang MP said he had announced his decision to contest the presidency at his division's Youth meeting last week.

"If I continue talking about it, people would say I am campaigning. I don't want to campaign."

Asked when would be the best time, Razaleigh, who made his first appearance in Parliament today since his announcement, said: "That is why you have to wait for it."

He arrived in Parliament about 12.15pm and when approached by reporters, he said, "Let me go in first".

He came out of the House at 12.55pm and quickly made his way down to the entrance of the Parliament.

This is Razaleigh's second attempt at becoming Umno president, having lost to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad (now Tun) in 1987.

The Umno assembly and party elections are scheduled for Sept 23 to 25.

Up till yesterday, 62 Umno divisions had held their division meetings and all have nominated Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi for the post.

The divisions had also nominated vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Razak for the position of deputy president.

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