

Razaleigh surprised that Dr Mahathir lost

The Star - 14/9/2006

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno veteran Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said he was shocked by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir's defeat in the recent Kubang Pasu delegates election as "it should have been an easy win."

Tengku Razaleigh said he believed that unseen forces could have contributed to the defeat that prevented Dr Mahathir from becoming a delegate at the upcoming Umno general assembly.

"There must be forces that are trying to prevent him from being elected. I don't think the Malays are that ungrateful," he said when approached at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

"Dr Mahathir was only seeking to be a representative and had no interest to become a prime minister or deputy prime minister.

"I am shocked, as he should have had an easy path. He is not just a great leader but is also a world renowned leader."

Tengku Razaleigh expressed surprise that the former prime minister, who had created a name for the country, was suddenly not wanted by his own people, although he only left (office) three years ago.

"With the state of play, I suppose you can't expect anything else other than a loss for Dr Mahathir. I think people -

those who didn't want to see him elected - were determined to stop him."

He said there must be unseen forces as "otherwise how could Dr Mahathir suffer a loss when he was a leader in Kubang Pasu for more than 30 years and had brought more development there than to any other constituency in the country."

Tengku Razaleigh, well known for his "fight" with Dr Mahathir for the party presidency in 1987, said there was no reason to fear him.

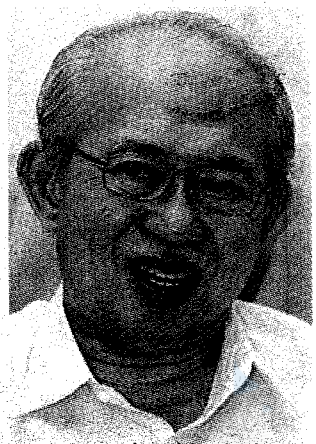
"I don't see how he will jeopardise the stability of Umno. Why should we be afraid of him? I fought him before and I'm

not afraid as we brought programmes which we thought were good for the party and country," he added.

On Dr Mahathir's claims that delegates were given a RM200 bribe, Tengku Razaleigh said he should lodge a report with the Umno disciplinary committee so that it could investigate.

Tengku Razaleigh believed that Dr Mahathir would still carry on despite not being elected as a delegate.

"Based on the news conference that he gave recently, he is still going on, that means (the loss) is not a devastating blow for him," he said.



Razaleigh: Believes unseen forces contributed to Dr Mahathir's defeat