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Nik Aziz-Reaction

UMNO'S SUPPORT IS HARI RAYA GIFT, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, May 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today thanked Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Umno for declaring support to move by PAS to amend the state constitution if it is in line with Umno's stand.

The Kelantan Menteri Besar described the statement made by the Prime Minister in Bandar Seri Begawan as a Hari Raya gift.

He said he had never expected such support from Umno in the party's crisis with Parti Melayu Semangat 46 (S46) over the proposed amendments to the state constitution. "Thanks God, at least there'll be no problem of lacking two third majority," he said after meeting PAS leaders at the Menteri Besar official residence, here.

He was commenting on Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement today that the party would support PAS in the Kelantan State Legislative Assembly if the proposed amendments to the state constitution, to curtail the power of the rulers, was in line with Umno's stand.

S46 President Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah had earlier called on PAS to discuss the proposed amendments with all Angkatan Perpaduan Ummah (APU) component parties before tabling it in the state legislative assembly, failing which it would not receive S46's support.

PAS now has 24 seats in the state legislative assembly with S46, 12 and Barisan Nasional seven.

Nik Aziz said Dr Mahathir's statement was meaningful to PAS since the party did not know that Umno would support the amendments when it raised the issue.

Meanwhile, PAS deputy-president Abdul Hadi Awang said PAS would go ahead with the amendments even if S46 objected to it.

Abdul Hadi said as far as the central PAS leaders were concerned there was no plans to meet their S46 counterparts to discuss the crisis between the two parties. --BERNAMA

RAR ZUL ABG