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Nik Aziz: Room for further co-operation between two parties

KOTA BARU, Fri. - Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the political differences between Umno and Pas in Kelantan could be further reduced when there was closer co-operation between the two parties.

"The rivalry between the two parties had, at times, gone overboard," he conceded. "The situation would be less tense if there was more co-operation."

He was speaking to reporters after having tea with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Wadi Soffia, KUB Malaysia Bhd chairman Datuk Hassan Harun's residence.

Nik Aziz hoped more programmes could be arranged for closer relations between the two parties.

He said it was the Kelantan Government which approached KUB to jointly carry out the multi-billion ringgit petrochemical project at Pantai Senok in Bachok.

Nik Aziz, along with Dr Mahathir, witnessed this morning the agreement signing ceremony between KUB and Keloil Sdn Bhd, a Pas Government controlled company, to jointly develop the petrochemical project.

The Menteri Besar said co-operation between the two parties was at the moment limited to economic co-operation.

On the Prime Minister's speech this morning concerning the need for Muslims not to resort to violence and political extremism, Nik Aziz said he supported the view.

"While we differ politically, we should not become extremists," he said. "We should also refrain from holding demonstrations or engage in actions that can be construed as being extremist."

Nik Aziz said Pas grass roots supporters were in favour of co-operating with Umno, judging by the good attendance to welcome the Prime Minister at the Sultan Ismail Petra airport this morning and at the opening of the KUB Tekstil Sdn Bhd factory.

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