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Nik Aziz-Mahathir

PAS ACCEPTS MAHATHIR'S STATEMENT ON COOPERATION

KOTA BAHARU, April 4 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat today described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that the federal government is prepared to cooperate with the PAS leaders in the state as "a healthy view from a statesman".

He said PAS welcomed the gesture and in reciprocation the opposition party had long adopted a moderate stand besides trying to rid its supporters of their fanaticism.

"The Malays are now undergoing a political transition...we need opposition members but don't let us fight," he told reporters after accompanying Dr Mahathir on his one-day working visit to Kelantan, here.

He said PAS had initiated the cooperation with the federal government when it invited KUB Malaysia Berhad to collaborate in a petrochemical project in the state.

The cooperation became a reality when KUB and Keloil, a subsidiary of the state economic development corporation, signed an agreement on the project in Pantai Senok, Bachok, witnessed by Dr Mahathir and Nik Aziz, today.

Dr Mahathir said at the function that Umno and PAS were still political foes but that did not mean that they could not cooperate, especially in developing Kelantan's economy.

Nik Aziz said the relationship between the two parties could be brought even closer in future, now that a start had been made in the economic field.

He also said that most of the PAS supporters had begun to realise the PAS leaders' aspirations now that they were no longer so fanatic.

"We see more PAS supporters at the grassroots level present (at the signing ceremony) and they are not fanatic. In fact they were prepared to welcome the prime minister at the airport this morning," he said. --

BERNAMA

RAR JK