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Nik Aziz-Umno

PAS CAN'T WORK WITH UMNO POLITICALLY, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, April 18 (Bernama) -- PAS and Umno cannot work together politically as the latter gave importance to nationalism while Pas strived to uphold Islamic principles in the country, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today.

He said that as long as Umno stuck to its nationalistic policies, ties between the two parties would be confined to only collaborations in economic and social fields as Pas would continue its role as an opposition party.

"If Umno wants to accept Islamic policies, then there will be no problems between us but as long as it pursues nationalistic policies, it has to carry on with its way and we have our own way too," he told reporters when met at his residence in Pulau Melaka here.

Under the present circumstances, efforts to unite Pas and Umno were impossible as Pas' past experiences while in Barisan Nasional showed moves to bring together two parties of varying ideologies would be futile.

He said recent moves by Umno leaders to bring the party closer to Islamic struggles were still inadequate for Pas to recognise Umno as implementing Islamic policies as "we feel Umno still give importance to nationalistic policies as enshrined in the party's constitution."

Asked whether Pas' attitude had divided the Malays, Nik Aziz said disunity would still be there even without Pas.

"Umno also is divided with factions and internal bickerings," he said.

He said though Pas was enhancing its position as an opposition, the party was prepared to cooperate and be friendly with Umno in various fields as evident during Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent visit to Kelantan.

Asked for Pas' rationale to be friendly with Umno, Nik Aziz said as a party founded on Islamic virtues, it was its responsibility to be closer to others and impart the true understanding of Islam.

He said Dr Mahathir's visit to the state was testimony that allegations hurled at Pas were slanderous and untrue as the trip was a success to Islamic struggles which do not resort to violence and extremism to achieve something. -- BERNAMA

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