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HOLD DISCUSSION ON APOSTASY, NIK AZIZ TELLS GOVT

KOTA BAHARU, Feb 9 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today urged the government to hold talks with non-Malay political parties on the issue of apostasy.

He said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman should invite parties like the MCA, MIC and DAP to closed door discussions with a view to reviewing the nation's Islamic policies in the federal constitution.

"Otherwise we can never solve the problem," he told a news conference here.

Nik Aziz said the federal constitution should be amended to include the requirements of the Al-Quran and Hadis on the question of apostasy.

Asked to comment on the campaign to collect donations, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday, Nik Aziz said it was a timely move to increase the country's reserves. -- BERNAMA

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