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Leaders: Pas has no principle

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Pas was today denounced as an unprincipled party which would promise anything to win support for itself.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas' declaration that it would accept a non-Muslim, possibly from the DAP, as Prime Minister was a meaningless statement.

"I don't think the Chinese and Indians will believe Pas. Pas is saying what the DAP wants to hear.

"When it goes back to its ceramah for Malays only, it will say something else," he said at the open house of Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

He said Pas would promise anything to win support but never fulfil it.

He said Pas had broken its promise to the now-defunct Parti Melayu Semangat 46 that it would appoint a Semangat 46 leader as Deputy Menteri Besar if it took over Kelantan.

"How can we believe it? One day, it wants an Islamic State, the next day it says this idea has been dropped. It says Umno members are Muslims but later claims these people are infidels.

"It will say whatever it can say. As (Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk) Nik (Abdul) Aziz (Nik Mat) says, he cannot stop talking when he sees a microphone," Dr Mahathir said.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Pas said different things at different times as it did not have a stand on any issue.

"One minute it says a DAP leader can be Prime Minister and the next minute, the Alternative Front wants Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to be Prime Minister if it wins the next general election.

"At its own muktamar, the party wants its own leader to be Prime Minister," Abdullah said.

Samy Vellu also dismissed Pas' move as one which was aimed solely at fishing votes from non-Muslims. He said it was a convention in Malaysia for the Prime Minister to be a Muslim.

Kelantan Umno liaison committee deputy chairman Datuk Annuar Musa questioned the sincerity of Nik Aziz's statement and described it as a political gimmick.

The Rural Development Minister said if Pas was sincere, it would have appointed non-Muslims as members of the Kelantan State Assembly as promised in its 1990 general election manifesto.

"Nik Aziz has yet to fulfil the promise after nearly 10 years. Why is he making the statement now when the general election is round the corner?" Annuar said.

Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said Nik Aziz's statement showed the Alternative Front was trying to confuse the public.

"It is a known fact that Pas has been inconsistent in its stand. Previously, the party proposed that the hudud law be implemented. Now, it hardly talks about the issue," said the Information Minister.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek told the public not to believe Nik Aziz's statement.

"Pas can say something today but make a different stand the following day. I believe the Chinese voters will not believe in what Nik Aziz says anymore," said the MCA deputy president.

Acting Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, meanwhile,

described Nik Aziz's statement as an attempt to gain political mileage.
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