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Nik Aziz-Mahathir

NIK AZIZ AND HADI PLAN TO MEET PM

KOTA BAHARU, Dec 2 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said he and the new Terengganu Menteri Besar Abdul Hadi Awang -- who both lead the PAS government in their respective states will discuss soon on a date to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"God willing, after this I will discuss with Ustaz Hadi to meet with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as we should congratulate each other (on the victory in the general election on Monday)," he told reporters, here today.

Nik Aziz, who is also head of PAS Council of Ulama, was confident that PAS' success in retaining power for three consecutive terms by beating Barisan Nasional (BN) would not affect the federal government's assistance and allocation for Kelantan.

"There's no reason why the present prime minister wants to stop it. He knows that Kelantan is a state in the federation and we need to work closely and this is a democratic practice because the people are given full opportunity to choose (the government)," he said.

Nik Aziz also criticised the statements by several Kelantan Umno leaders whom he described as "politicians with no class" as they were prepared to scold the people for not choosing Umno including proposing that the federal government dissolved the Federal Development Department (JPP) -- the federal government agency which plays a role in developing Kelantan.

However, he praised Kelantan Umno Liaison head Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah whom he described as a mature politician when he accepted Umno's defeat in the state gracefully.

Nik Aziz also hoped the federal government would channel the annual allocation directly to the state government after this instead of through the JPP although he acknowledged the department had carried out its responsibilities well in helping to implement development in Kelantan.

Asked on the DAP's claim that the party suffered a major setback in the election due to its relationship with PAS, the Menteri Besar said there was no basis for the claim because the relationship forged all this while was on a voluntary basis and not out of force.

"Others are not blaming PAS, Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) also is not blaming PAS, PRM (Parti Rakyat Malaysia) is not blaming PAS. It's not right to blame others when we lose," he said.

He agreed that PAS would be adversely affected if its relationship with DAP was severed because he wanted the relationship to continue for mutual benefits.

On the PAS manifesto in Kelantan, Nik Aziz said he would implement them to the best of his ability but normally it could not be done all at once.

"There are things that can be done simultaneously, there are also things which must be done through a process of time while some cannot be done at all. It's always the aspiration of any political party do so (implement its manifesto) but in terms of sincerity in implementing it, we are always sincere," he said.

Nik Aziz also apologised to Umno leaders and supporters who were offended by some PAS supporters who were over-zealous in their action such as jeering at Umno members after the PAS victory in the general election.

"I have already advised PAS members to be calm, don't jeer and hold grudges. This is the teaching of Islam," he said.

"I apologise if there are friends from Umno who are offended by the action of the young members in PAS," he added.

-- BERNAMA
RAR AO