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BN-Nik Aziz

NIK AZIZ'S STATEMENT ON NON-MUSLIM PM DISAPPOINTS FOLLOWERS

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Barisan Nasional (BN) believe many PAS supporters particularly in this state were disappointed with the statement by Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat that PAS would accept a non-Muslim including from the DAP as the Prime Minister.

State BN secretary Datuk Mohamed Ariffin Abdul Hamid said loyal PAS supporters and the Malays felt slighted by the statement as it came from a respected religious leader in the country.

Nik Aziz is the party's spiritual adviser.

"I think the statement has backfired and PAS had to come up with various statements purportedly to explain what Nik Aziz had actually meant," he told reporters after a get-together with policemen at the Pengkalan Chepa police station here last night.

Nik Aziz said on Friday that PAS would accept a non-Muslim, including someone from the DAP, to head the government if the so-called Alternative Front formed the government after the general election.

Ariffin said the BN would explain the issue to the Kelantan people particularly to kampung folks on PAS' readiness to pawn the integrity of the Malays merely to win the election.

He said a PAS activist, who recently quit the party, would give a ceramah along with Kelantan Umno chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah on Thursday night in the Chempaka state constituency represented by Nik Aziz.

"I'm confident more PAS leaders and members will leave the party soon," he said.

Ariffin also said Umno's anti-defamation operation was progressing smoothly in Kelantan, the only state in Malaysia under opposition rule.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the operation in Kuala Lumpur on Friday aimed at countering malicious lies perpetuated by the Opposition.

The nation-wide campaign would also address the Opposition's attempts to sow hatred, prejudice, sedition, cursing and use of vulgar words.

Meanwhile, Kelantan MCA deputy chief Leong Su Siang, in taking a swipe at Nik Aziz for making the statement, said PAS had compromised on its dignity to win votes and attempted to split the Chinese community in the state.

He said the Chinese in Kelantan would not be easily taken in by PAS' tactics.

He urged the people in Kelantan to reject the party after its almost 10-year administration of the state.

Leong, the assemblyman for Kota Lama, is the sole MCA representative and the only non-Muslim, in the 43-seat legislature.

-- BERNAMA

ZI/MNR TS