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Nik Aziz-Slogan

PAS MAINTAINS STAND ON ISLAMIC STATE

KOTA BAHARU, June 25 (Bernama) -- Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the party would continue to champion its cause to set up an Islamic state although the slogan on the setting up of an Islamic state would be dropped soon.

He said that as an Islamic party, Pas would uphold its cause to set up an Islamic state and to bring non-Muslims closer to Islam.

"I say with sincerity that so far as the slogan is concerned we can change, it's all right, as long as our stand on the Islamic struggle is maintained," he told reporters after delivering a religious lecture here, today.

Yesterday, Nik Aziz was reported to have said that Pas was prepared to drop the slogan on setting up an Islamic state as proof of its flexibility with political parties willing to cooperate with it including DAP.

"The slogan is all right...(it) can be dropped to overcome problems but the struggle for Islam and the setting up of an Islamic state will continue," said Nik Aziz who is also Kelantan Menteri Besar.

He said Pas would not be bothered with what the people would say including allegations that the party's willingness to drop the slogan was a political gimmick to seek cooperation in the opposition pact.

"People want to say that it's a political gimmick, it is their business, in the ceramah later we will still state our stand on the struggle for an Islamic state," he said.

Nik Aziz was also asked whether Pas would change its strategy by focusing only on Kelantan in the coming general election in view of the fact that Kelantan Umno is now headed by Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah.

He said there would be no change in strategy, in fact the same concentration would be given to the other states as preparation for the coming general election.

"Previously, Pas fought with Umno when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) himself was head of the Kelantan Umno Liaison Body and Datuk Annuar Musa was the deputy, both of them being ministers. Ku Li is not even a federal minister, if we were prepared to fight Dr Mahathir when he was Kelantan Umno head, why can't we fight Ku Li?" he asked.

--BERNAMA

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