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PAS TO PICK MORE NEW FACES FOR POLL, NIK AZIZ HINTS

KOTA BAHARU, Jan 27 (Bernama) -- New faces with professional background stand an equal chance of being shortlisted as PAS probable candidates in the next general election, Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today.

The party would also continue enlisting candidates from outside the state, he told reporters after chairing a state executive council meeting here today.

"We're looking for people who submit to Islam, are comfortable with an administration run by ulamas...and whose leadership the people can accept," he said when asked to elaborate on the criteria for the party's candidates although it had yet to prepare a list of them.

PAS has ruled Kelantan since 1990 and now controlled 26 of the 43 state seats with the Barisan Nasional (BN) representing the rest.

As for parliamentary seats, both PAS and the BN have seven seats each.

Two of the PAS members of parliament in Kelantan namely Mohamad Sabu (Kubang Kerian) and Daeng Sanusi Daeng Mariok (Rantau Panjang) are non-Kelantanese, Nik Aziz said emphasising that PAS was not particular about their candidates' place of origin.

Mohamad hails from Pulau Pinang and Daeng Sanusi, Johor.

Earlier this month, while visiting Kelantan, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the BN and Umno had drawn up strategies to regain control of Kelantan in the next general election.

-- BERNAMA

RAR RN