

17 JUL 1999

Razaleigh-Nik Aziz

UMNO WILL GIVE NIK AZIZ A WALKOVER IF...SAYS KU LI

PASIR PUTEH, July 17 (Bernama) -- The Kelantan Umno will give Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat a walkover in the next general election if the Kelantan Menteri Besar agrees to be appointed the state mufti, state Umno liaison chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said today.

However, Nik Aziz must promise to leave PAS, he said.

He said Umno would also appoint Nik Aziz as a member of the state executive council if its sincere offer was accepted when Umno received the mandate to rule Kelantan.

"We want him to advise the other state executive councillors on administration matters, especially on Islamic affairs," he said when opening a course and presenting documents from the Pasir Puteh Barisan Nasional election machinery, here.

He said he would not go back on the offer because Nik Aziz could serve the people of Kelantan through his leadership in the field of Islam.

Tengku Razaleigh said the offer was aimed at restoring unity among the Muslims in the state, especially in the villages.

"If Nik Aziz agrees to the proposal, we will make the agreement now," Tengku Razaleigh, who is also Gua Musang MP, said.

He said Umno only needed about 5 per cent more votes based on the 46 per cent it garnered in the 1995 general election and the figure was not difficult to achieve in view of the increasing support from the people for Umno's ceramah.

Tengku Razaleigh hoped that Umno members would work hard from now on to get more people to support Umno to win the general election by a big majority and said that all parties, including the young and old, must pitch in towards this end.

He wanted every Umno member to fly the BN flag at each house in conjunction with Prime Minister and Umno President Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's visit to the state on July 22,

Tengku Razaleigh said about 200,000 BN flags would be distributed to all the Umno divisions and branches and BN component parties in Kelantan.

-- BERNAMA