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Nik Aziz-Umno

NIK AZIZ: UMNO SHOULD ASK PARTY MEMBERS NOT TO BOYCOTT PAS MEMBERS

TANAH MERAH, April 30 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, who on last Friday urged PAS members to stop boycotting Umno members, today asked Umno leaders to make a similar statement, asking Umno members not to shun PAS members and supporters.

He said it was time Umno leaders issued a similar statement in line with earlier calls asking Muslims not to boycott each other.

"The time has come for Umno leaders to issue a similar statement like me so that Umno members will not boycott PAS members. The national Umno leaders and the federal government should also not boycott Kelantan government," he told reporters after the opening of the RM1.5-million haemodialysis centre at the Tanah Merah Hospital by the Sultan of Kelantan.

He said it was important for Umno to follow up on the matter as the party's leaders had responded positively to his statement.

Nik Aziz had said PAS members should stop boycotting Umno members as it would not benefit PAS and was against Islam, which advocates that Muslims should reach out to others in the spirit of goodwill.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in welcoming the statement, said he would like to see action rather than mere lip service.

He said Umno would want to see whether PAS could live up to its promise.

In explaining what he meant by the federal government's boycott of the Kelantan government, Nik Aziz said it happened in the distribution of fertilizers to padi farmers and the awarding of contracts to the Kelantan State Economic Development Corporation.

He claimed that the federal government had not offered any contract to the corporation except for sub-contract work.

He said the state government had to allocate RM3.5 million a year to supply fertilizers to the farmers as it was said that Umno would provide subsidised fertilizers only to party members.

He said the move was tantamount to influencing farmers to join Umno first before they could receive the fertilizers from the federal government.

"This is wrong as farmers are citizens of this country and have the right to receive government aid," he added.

-- BERNAMA

MNR RAR TS