

13 MAR 2001

PAS-Umno

PAS TO DISCUSS SUNDAY TALKS WITH UMNO

PETALING JAYA, March 13 (Bernama) -- The PAS Central Committee which meets Sunday will discuss among others the fate of the postponed Umno-PAS talks.

PAS secretary general Nasaruddin Mat Isa said the party's leadership would make a stand on the four subjects which Umno wanted to be discussed in the talks.

"We have not decided on the matter...we will bring it to the central committee this weekend," he told reporters after visiting victims of clashes in Jalan Klang Lama at the Universiti Malaya Medical Centre (PPUM) here, together with other PAS, Keadilan, DAP and Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) leaders.

Last Thursday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had underlined four main subjects relating to Malay interest as enshrined in the Federal Constitution for discussions in the talks.

These are the special privileges of the Malays, Malay language, Islam as the official religion and the position of the Malay rulers.

Prior to this, PAS wanted Umno to fulfil several conditions before it would attend the talks, among others urging the government to revert oil royalty to Terengganu, allow PAS official organ "Harakah" to be published twice a week as before and to reject Umno's proposal to ban the use of the word "Islam" in political parties.

He said PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor who returned from performing the Haj in Makkah today had been informed of the latest developments.

Asked on the next meeting of the technical committees of both parties, Nasaruddin said he was waiting for Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakub to fix a date.

"By coincidence I met him at the airport just now while he was waiting for the Sultan of Pahang and I was waiting for Datuk Fadzil. But we did not talk about the date," he said.

The technical committees, formed to prepare the groundwork for the talks, have met twice on Feb 8 and 16.

--BERNAMA

AR AHH ABG