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'PM's Islamic state stand a drama'

KOTA BARU: PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the move by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to declare Malaysia an Islamic state had provided a new challenge to PAS in wanting to spread its influence among Muslims in the country.

As such, he said party members and theologians who sided the party should let Muslims know of this new strategy deployed by Umno to confuse them.

"We must tell Muslims that the declaration on the Islamic state is nothing but a drama," he said when opening the national delegates' conference of the ulama council.

He said it was a drastic move by Umno to regain support after realising that it was losing influence among the people.

Nik Aziz, who is also Kelantan Mentri Besar, said the declaration on the Islamic state was proof that PAS was right in inviting the people to the ways of Islam in their daily life.

"He was the same person who said in the past that Islamic laws could not be enforced in Malaysia because of its multi-racial society," he said.

Speaking to reporters later, Nik Aziz said PAS did not view Malaysia as an Islamic state and the declaration was only a political game.