

Mahathir: Nik Aziz's idea spells dictatorship

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JOHOR BARU: The setting up of a one-party system as suggested by PAS spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat will only pave the way for a dictatorship.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the proposal reflected PAS political tendencies, with leaders demanding absolute power to make decisions instead of reaching a consensus.

"Nik Aziz probably wants to be a dictator, that's why he wants only one party to be in control.

"In such a system, he wants all decisions to be made by the *ulama*. This shows that he is unhappy with democracy," he said after his visit to Johor Port Bhd and Pasir Gudang yesterday. Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

The Kelantan Menteri Besar was quoted by newspa-

pers as saying that the country should adopt a one-party system to have trouble-free elections and allow democracy to develop further.

Nik Aziz said it would be the best way to eliminate problems like corrupt and immoral leaders, phantom voters, money politics and lobbying to be candidates because under the system, political aspirants would stand as individuals and not under any political banner.

Earlier, when closing the Johor Barisan Nasional convention attended by more than 5,000 people, Mahathir said the opposition should come up with better ideas to counter Barisan Nasional instead of resorting to violence and strong-arm tactics.

Warning opposition parties "not to play with fire", he said: "They are only inviting danger if they continue to use violence to get people to vote for them."