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State-Islam

DECLARATION OF ISLAMIC STATE A NEW CHALLENGE FOR PAS, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, May 30 (Bernama) -- PAS Spiritual Adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the move by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to declare Malaysia as 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 here.

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 Menteri Besar, said the declaration on the Islamic state was a proof that PAS was right in inviting the people to the ways of Islam in their daily life.

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

But he said Umno finally came to grips with the fact that Muslims were fed up with nationalism and secularism which cared only for material things while neglecting the spiritual needs of man.

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

"Declaring that the country is an Islamic state but with no change in policy is only a game. It's meaningless, we reject 100 per cent the declaration," he said.

He also said PAS could only accept Umno if the party changed its policy and accepted the Quran and Hadith as the guidance of its struggle.

-- BERNAMA

RAR ABG