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BN-Opposition
NIK AZIZ REJECTS INVITATION TO JOIN BN

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- PAS' spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has rejected Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's invitation for all opposition parties to join the Barisan Nasional (BN).

He said the PAS leaders need not discuss the invitation and instead the party wished to make a counter offer for all the Malay parties in the BN to join PAS and the non-Malay based, to join Keadilan.

"There is no need to discuss this invitation and I will be angry if my friends (PAS and opposition leaders) wish to discuss issues like this," he told reporters here today.

Dr Mahathir, who is the BN chairman yesterday called on the opposition parties to join the BN in efforts to develop the nation and face foreign threats.

The prime minister said the BN was willing to share power if the opposition parties were sincere in joining the BN.

Nik Aziz, who is the Kelantan Menteri Besar said PAS declined to join Umno which led the BN since it saw the party as not being transparent and failed to assist the Malays and Islam.

"PAS itself has join the BN in the 70s and we were booted out in a very humiliating manner. I still feel the bitterness of Umno's actions (that time)," he said.

Nik Aziz said at the time Umno was losing support from the Chinese-based parties, PAS had shown its open policy which attracted the attention of the Chinese community.

"Umno or BN is not transparent and this makes the Chinese-based parties to feel uneasy, start to make problems as they (Chinese) are taught open politics. When they face Umno which is clearly not transparent, then they create issues," he said.

In KUALA TERENGGANU, PAS acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said the prime minister's invitation was a move to weaken the opposition.

Abdul Hadi said the invitation was made at the time when the BN was weakening and became desperate, to the extent of forcing it to resort to a new approach.

He said the invitation also indicated that the BN had failed to strengthen the country in the face of foreign threats.

In KUALA LUMPUR, Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) president Dr Syed Husin Ali said Dr Mahathir's invitation was planned to split the opposition especially the PRM and Keadilan which planned to merge.

If Dr Mahathir really wanted all Malaysians to unite against the foreign threats apart from focusing on the people's and nation's development, the best way was to set up a national unity government, Dr Syed Husin said in a statement.

He suggested that the prime minister invited all parties as well as non-governmental organisations and community leaders to sit down and jointly discuss the issue.

Meanwhile the Malaysian Islamic Youth Movement (Abim) called on the opposition parties to accept Dr Mahathir's invitation for the sake of the country's interest.

Abim president Ahmad Azam Abdul Rahman said the invitation was timely in view of the terrorism issue levelled against the country.

"Abim sees the prime minister's invitation as the people's hope in facing the foreign threats," he told Bernama in Kuala Lumpur.

Ahmad Azam said it was important for Malaysians to unite in the wake of the recent developments.

"The act by western nations which views Malaysia as a terrorist base needs the commitment of all Malaysians to deal with it," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir's invitation showed his commitment in cooperating with all parties including the opposition to deal with issues of joint interest.

-- BERNAMA

AZZ MUN MAI ZUL