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Pas confident of retaining Kelantan in the next election

KOTA BARU, Fri. - Pas is confident of returning to power in Kelantan in the next general election despite the appointment of several new faces in the State Umno liaison committee, said Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

Nik Aziz said the changes made were only in personalities but the policies of the party remained the same.

"The people in Kelantan support Pas not because it is a rich party but for its Islamic policy.

"Although it's a new line-up, it's still the same old Umno. Nothing has changed," he told reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony of the RM77 million Pelangi Mall, here today.

Nik Aziz was commenting on the major shake-up of Kelantan Umno with the dropping of deputy head Datuk Annuar Musa and three other key office-bearers as announced by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Annuar was replaced by lawyer Zaid Ibrahim, who is also Kota Baru Umno division chief. The others axed are Tuan Hashim Tuan Yaacob as secretary, Datuk Nik Hussain Ab Rahman (treasurer) and Datuk Ismail Mamat (information chief).

Nik Aziz said there was no reason for the people to oust Pas from the State Government.

"Insya'allah we will continue to be in power (after the next election) if the people recognise that they can survive and develop under a Pas-led government.

"Despite what certain parties allege, there is development (in the State) and the number of projects in the State is increasing by the year."