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Nik Aziz: We're ready to meet heads of all political parties

KOTA BARU, Sun. - Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat said non-Muslim parties are rejecting its Islamic state Document because they are unfamiliar with Pas' policy of the Islamic state.

Nik Aziz, who is also Kelantan Menteri Besar, said Pas was ready to hold a meeting of all presidents of political parties to explain the document, which was unveiled by Pas president Datuk Abdul Hadi Awang on Wednesday.

"It is more gentlemanly to do so than for them to voice their dissatisfaction and worry through the Press.

"They can also voice their views directly to the Pas president and get an explanation from him," he said at his office today.

He was commenting on calls by the MCA and Gerakan to non-Muslims to reject the document.

He said some of issues in the document had been implemented by the Barisan Nasional Government as stated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Thursday.

"The difference is not on what has been implemented but the foundation and basis. Pas implements projects carried out by Umno like constructing roads and mosques but our policy states that the money should come from halal sources."

On Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement that he was always twisting his words, Nik Aziz said: "I have never been angry although some of Dr Mahathir's statements hurt me.

"I am a politician and he is also a politician. One should not jump if one wants to be involved in politics."

In Kuala Lumpur, Zubaidah Abu Bakar reports that Pas leaders would go on a nationwide tour to explain the document.

The party, which will also organise in-house programmes for its members, has decided that all future official statements on the proposed Islamic state ala Pas must be vetted by the party's political and election bureau.

These measures were decided at the political and election bureau meeting, chaired by Hadi here, yesterday. A party official said Pas was ready to face the people, including the non-Muslims on the document.