

Nik Aziz moots idea of 'only one Islamic party for all Malays'
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KOTA BARU - PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has suggested that the Malays should belong to only one political party that is Islamic-based in the interest of Malay unity.

The Kelantan Menteri Besar said there was no need for them to belong to many Malay political parties, but to one that is Islamic-based as "Islam covers all races, be it Malay, Chinese or Indian".

"As PAS is an Islamist party, all the Malays should therefore be in PAS," he said after handing over computer laptops to 200 students of the Masterskill College Metro Campus, Kota Baharu, Wednesday.

Also present was the chief executive of the college, Ahmad Nazir Abdullah.

Nik Aziz was earlier asked by reporters to comment on the proposal by PAS deputy secretary-general Takiyuddin Hassan for Umno to compromise by not contesting in the upcoming Galas state seat by-election, for the sake of Malay unity and to avoid prolonged friction between the two main Malay political parties, Umno and PAS.

The Galas seat is now vacant following the death of its incumbent Che Hashim Sulaima, 48, from PAS, on Monday from cancer.

Nik Aziz said he fully supported Takiyuddin's statement.

"Not just by-elections. . .Umno should not contest in any election at all and should stay in one party, that is, PAS. There's no need for a party for the Malays other than PAS," he said, adding that he had wished for this a long time ago.

On the party's candidate for the by-election, Nik Aziz said PAS had no problem in choosing one.

"As a party which is always in a state of preparedness, whether there's going to be an election or not, the candidate would have long been identified but to be decided by the party's top leadership.

"Furthermore, PAS has non-Muslim supporters who are Chinese and can be fielded as candidates in the elections if necessary, but again the party leadership will decide," he said. - Bernama

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