

**Nik Aziz: Malaysians must bury fascism**  
**Malaysianmirror.com**  
**19 October 2010**

JOHOR BARU - PAS spiritual leader Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat (*left*) called on Malaysians to "bury fascism" and to stop any slide towards an authoritarian government that opposed the spirit of democracy and justice.

"Umno must be stopped from continually manipulating justice for the people," Nik Aziz told a forum organised by rights group Suaram here on Monday.

"Fascism in any form will bring destruction," said Nik Aziz who is Kelantan Menteri Besar, according to a *Harakahdaily* report.

"The public's better awareness and literacy about information have brought only trouble for Umno and BN, the fascist government."

Although the Federal Constitution had clearly stated Islam as the religion of the Federation with other religions able to be practised peacefully, Nik Aziz pointed out that the Umno and Barisan Nasional were not ruling based on any religious values but one which he said was based on secularism that was oriented to racist nationalism.

"When the spirit of religion is not practised by the BN, there prevails tyranny, oppression, plunder and injustice against the people," *Harakahdaily* quoted Nik Aziz as saying.

He cited examples of the Internal Security Act (ISA), as well as many other laws preventing freedom of speech, and the undermining of bodies such as the Election Commission, police and the judiciary.

"Because they are fascists, they do not follow their religion, they disobey the constitution and they rob the people of their rights. Just like the Perak coup to overthrow the elected government," said the PAS spiritual leader, adding that denying people their democratic rights and advocating racism were the characteristics of fascism.

He called on Pakatan Rakyat to double efforts in creating awareness among the people in the urban, rural and remote areas.

"Leaders must prove their integrity and moral leadership based on religion. Never abandon any religion," he was quoted by *Harakahdaily* as saying.

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