

Hadi Awang Wanted To Become PM, Says Nazri
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Mohamed Nazri Aziz said that PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang is harbouring hopes of becoming opposition leader and Prime Minister-designate.

With opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim losing his influence as he is embroiled in a sodomy trial, Abdul Hadi must think that he stands a chance of taking over, Mohamed Nazri said.

"Hadi realises there's an opportunity for him to be leader of Pakatan now that Anwar is in trouble. He thinks that if they can capture Putrajaya, then he can be the prime minister.

"That's why he has forced the party to have a different image now," he told reporters here after chairing a meeting on the awarding of scholarships.

He was commenting on the just concluded PAS meeting, which saw the party switch its focus from an Islamic to a welfare state, and where conservative candidates lost in the party elections.

Mohamed Nazri, who is Umno supreme council member, said the number of people contesting the top posts showed there was a lust for power.

He also said that the new image that PAS was acquiring for itself was nothing new.

Umno and Barisan Nasional had always been concerned with building a welfare state, he said.

"Finally they have admitted what Umno has done all this while is correct. They want to be an alternative to Umno but there is nothing new in their Welfare state aim," Mohamed Nazri said.

He said that PAS was trying to rebrand itself for the general election, but not many would be convinced by the new image.

(Bernama)