

'They are lost souls'

Nik Aziz: Muslims should not back parties that are non-Islamic

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KOTA BARU: Lost souls – that is how PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat describes Malays who vote for non-Islamic parties.

He urged them to return to the true path of Islam so that their religious direction could be corrected.

“Muslims should only vote parties whose political struggle is for Islam.

“Those who vote non-Islamic parties are *sesat* (lost).

“They should review their faith and throw their support behind Islam,” he said at a dinner he hosted for the media covering the party’s *muktamar*.

He was asked about the split among the Malay voters.

On PAS rejoining Barisan Nasional, Nik Aziz, who is Kelantan Menteri Besar, revealed that he was once asked to join Umno but rejected the offer.

“If Umno does away with its secularism and adopts Islam as its main political struggle then there is even no need for PAS to exist.

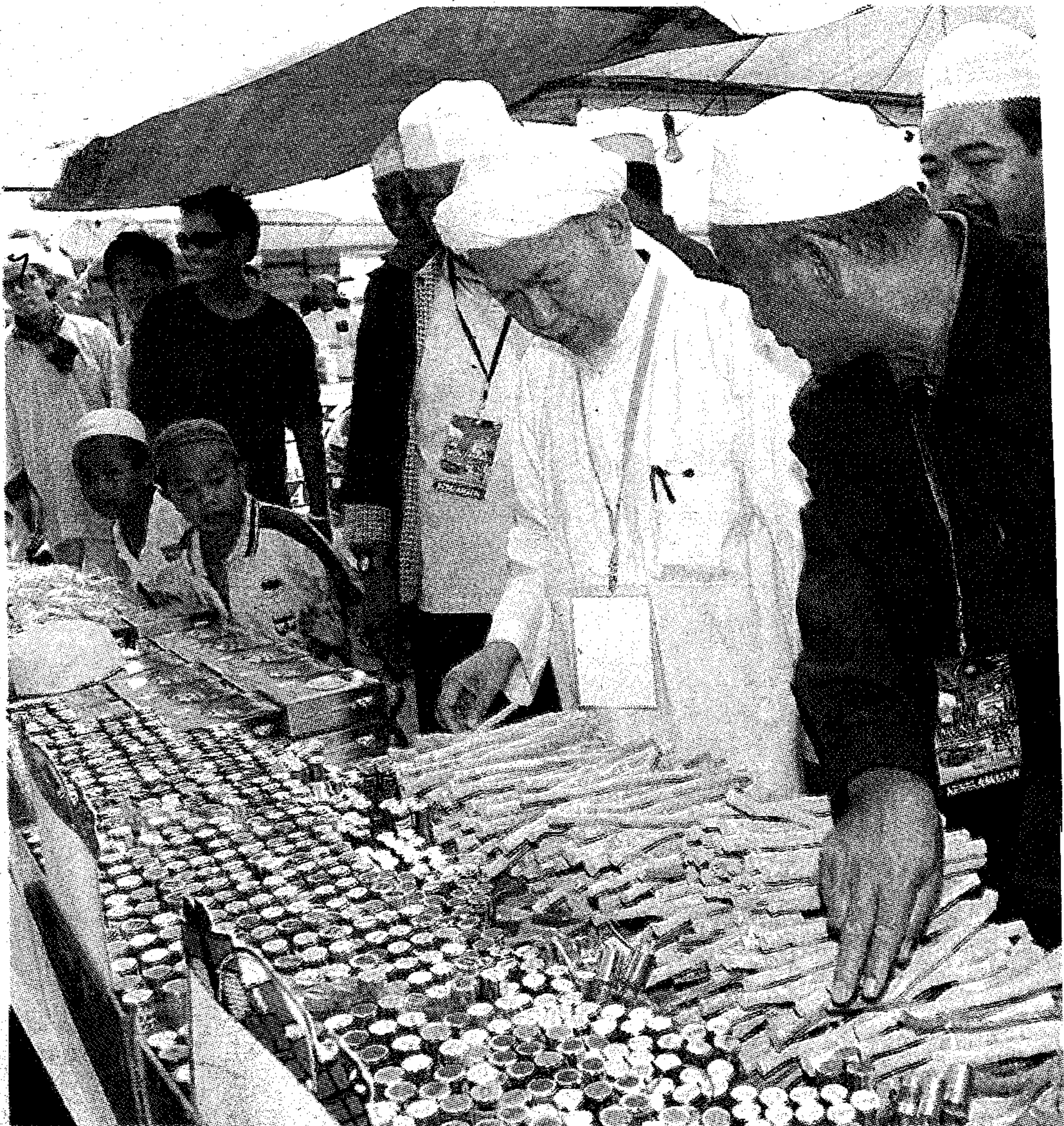
“Umno must embrace Islamist policies as the fundamentals of its political struggle.”

Nik Aziz, 76, who looked frail due to a heart ailment, said he had in mind a successor but would not name him yet.

“I have seen my successor. I cannot say it aloud as I am afraid others will be disappointed.”

PAS vice-president Datuk Husam Musa, state PAS secretary Nik Mohd Amar Abdullah and deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Ahmad Yakop are seen as potential successors to Nik Aziz.

Nik Aziz said that for PAS to be further



Closer look: Nik Aziz looking at sugi wood being displayed at a stall during the PAS *muktamar* in Kota Baru yesterday.

strengthened, it must be led by a combination of ulama and professionals.

At the *muktamar*, Kedah delegate Fakhrolrozi Mohd Zawawi called on PAS president (Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang) to address the perception that the party line was divided between ula-

mas and professionals.

He also proposed that PAS form a splinter political entity to help promote its struggle in the west coast.

He also wanted the party to disclose its financial status, including the purchase of an RM8mil building as its headquarters.