

**Nik Aziz says will run in coming polls**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 5 — PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat today announced his intention to contest in the coming general election.

Rejecting Umno pressure for him to relinquish his spot, the Kelantan menteri besar said there was no need for him to do so.

“God willing, I will contest against Umno and I am not concerned if people mentioned my name at the assembly,” Nik Aziz was quoted as saying by Bernama Online today.

The 80-year-old leader continues to be popular both in the state and nationally, where he is often considered the face of the Islamist party and its brand of Islam.

Umno has tasked federal minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed to wrest back the state it lost to PAS in Election 1990.

Both parties have embarked on aggressive campaigns to promote their respective candidates for the state’s top spot ahead of the anticipated general election.

National polls are not due until 2013, but speculation has it that the Najib administration will call for one early next year before the brunt of the global economic crisis hits the country.

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