

Nasharudin renews call for Umno-PAS dialogue

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By Shazwan Mustafa Kamal

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 17 — Former PAS deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa today encouraged inter-party dialogue between his party and Umno for the “betterment” of the country.

The Bachok MP was speaking as a panellist in a discussion session moderated by none other than Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein, during the Global Movement of Moderates event here.

Earlier, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak launched the event.

“When you talk about partisan politics, I’ve tried to make this effort to try to bring close differences between the two organisations (PAS and Umno).

“It is still something that needs to be put effort on...there is a small group within my organisation that is concerned (about) the need to talk with not just PAS or Umno, but other organisations,” he said when asked why PAS was willing to work with non-Muslim parties but not with Umno.

Nasharudin (picture) later told reporters that such dialogues were for the “future of the country, and that as an opposition MP, he did not oppose Barisan Nasional “just for the sake of opposing”.

“Unity talks? That’s a dialogue, a form of dialogue...Unity (talks) it’s always been confined as if that whenever PAS sits down with Umno, it is talking about formation of government, talking about whether PAS joins Umno.

“That has never been in the agenda. The purpose of any discussion should be forward looking for benefit of the nation,” he said.

The Bachok MP, who was PAS deputy president until he was defeated by his successor Mohamad Sabu has been one for the few PAS leaders said to be in favour of unity talks between the two Malay-Muslim parties.

PAS has however flatly refused to entertain the idea of a union between the two parties since Election 2008.

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