

'Pas must iron out differences'

New Straits Times

21 May, 2012

MARANG: UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal has advised Pas leaders to iron out differences of opinion among themselves on the proposed talks with Umno before engaging in the discussions.

"It looks like they are not together in this matter. Some of their leaders are for the talks while others are not, making it seem that they are not sincere about the discussions.

"We know that the talks are good, in the context of Islam and the Malays," he said after launching a community programme attended by about 7,000 people at the Merchang football field.

Bernama quoted Shafie, who is rural and regional development minister, as saying that he did not think that the talks would be successful if Pas insisted on imposing conditions as mentioned by the party's spiritual leader, Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat, on Saturday.

"This has happened many times. If the talks are for the good of all, then they should be expedited.

"They seem to be flip-flopping and political interests precede religious and people's interests."

On another matter, Shafie said the ministry had allocated almost RM8 billion this year to develop rural infrastructure, mainly in Sabah and Sarawak.

He also said that more than RM71 million had been allocated for Terengganu, adding that for the Marang district alone, some RM4.9 million would be spent on rural roads and housing for the hardcore poor.

In **Alor Star**, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Pas did not impose any condition on DAP when the former agreed to join the opposition's Pakatan Rakyat alliance.

It is an open secret that Pas and DAP cannot see eye-to-eye when it comes to the parties' ideology.

In **Kota Baru**, Kelantan Umno liaison chief Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said all parties should support any move to enhance co-operation among Muslims and Malaysians generally.

"There should be no conditions. The important thing is to make a start," he said after opening a nursing seminar held in conjunction with the state-level Nurses Day.

In **Bangi**, former Pas deputy president Nasharudin Mat Isa has called on Umno and Pas to press on with the proposed muzakarah (talks) for the sake of the country and the Malay-Muslim community.

He said as the two biggest Malay-Muslim parties, Umno and Pas should set aside "politicking" and continue with the talks, even though he acknowledged the conditions set by Pas for the two parties to meet may be too difficult for Umno to accept.

"Even so, I hope the leaders of the two parties can open their hearts and sit together at one table to discuss and resolve problems for the future of the ummah (Muslim brotherhood) and the country," he said at his daughter's wedding ceremony here.

Copyright © 2012 The New Straits Times Press (Malaysia) Berhad.

Source: <http://www.nst.com.my/nation/politics/pas-must-iron-out-differences-1.86024>