

**Claim By Nik Aziz That Only PAS Can Unite Muslims Is Empty Talk - Umno Veteran
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 2 (Bernama) -- The claim by PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat that only the party is capable of leading and uniting the Muslims in Malaysia is 'empty talk' and not based on fact, said Umno Veterans Club secretary Datuk Mustapha Yaakub.

He said this was apparent from the refusal of PAS itself to cooperate with Umno which had sincerely offered its friendship for the sake of leading the Muslims to realise Malay unity in the country.

"If Nik Aziz wants to make the claim, then show proof that PAS is sincere in leading the Muslims and wants the Malays to unite. Is declaring the Muslim Malays in Umno as infidels considered to be consistent with championing Islam?"

"Umno has for so long championed Islam and the Malay cause in Malaysia, so, why can't PAS cooperate with Umno that has the same objective? PAS can't cooperate with Umno merely because the former has no intention of championing the cause of Islam and the Malays like Umno" he told Bernama.

On Wednesday, when commenting on the expulsion of Nasharuddin Mat Isa from the PAS Ulama Council, Nik Aziz was reported as saying that the former PAS deputy president could join any party including Umno, but stressed that only PAS was capable of championing and uniting the Muslims in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang was today reported as saying that PAS could not cooperate with Umno and the Barisan Nasional (BN) through power sharing in the country because the party (BN and Umno) did not know how to govern.

Mustapha questioned why PAS was still willing to cooperate with the DAP which clearly tried to belittle Islam when its secretary-general Lim Guan Eng wanted the government to allow the word 'Allah' to be used in the Malay language version of the Bible.

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