

**We Leave It To Allah To Judge Our Faith In Islam - Shafie
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SEMPORNA, April 9 (Bernama) -- UMNO vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal Monday said UMNO leaders and members left it to Allah to judge how Islamic they were, and not to Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

Shafie said what he could say was that "the UMNO leaders and members are Muslims who practise Islamic teachings as required by the religion".

"We have never rejected Islam as we are Muslims. If they (PAS) accuse us of not being Muslims, we leave it to Allah to measure and judge the depth of our faith in Islam."

Shafie said this after being asked to comment on Nik Aziz's reported statement claiming that the "UMNO people build mosques not because of Islam but to become building contractors".

In this regard, Shafie echoed the statement by UMNO deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, slamming PAS for promoting deviant teachings.

In MELAKA, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said the PAS spiritual leader's diatribe against UMNO was becoming worse and did not reflect the character of an Islamic leader or ulama by also alleging that UMNO would even oppose Prophet Muhammad if the Prophet was still alive.

He said Nik Aziz was prepared to insult fellow Muslims for political expediency.

"We hope he will quickly return to true Islamic values, speak in refined language and stop insulting his brethren.

"We notice that since befriending DAP, his language has become worse," he said after visiting Melaka Watercity Resort when he was asked to comment on Nik Aziz's offending statement made at a ceramah in Jeli, Kelantan, last Saturday.

Mohd Ali said Nik Aziz actually felt pressured by the extraordinary response to the 'Red Wave' in Kelantan, which indicated that Barisan Nasional was capable of wresting back the state.

In SEREMBAN, Negeri Sembilan Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan also expressed similar views on Nik Aziz's offending statement.

"Even if he (Nik Aziz) is so angry with UMNO, he should not speak like that. Isn't there any other way to express himself?

"It's better if he speaks about how to improve Kelantan's economy and how to solve the clean water supply problem in the state.

"There was also the claim made that UMNO members' prayers would gain no 'pahala' (divine merit). Who are you (Nik Aziz) to say that? Are you the key-holder to heaven?" he said after handing over grants amounting to RM3.5 million for the community rehabilitation programme for the January-June, 2013 period.

Mohamad said there were several requests from the Muslim community for more mosques to be built in the state. However, mosques would not simply be built but based on various considerations like urgency, the distance away from residential areas and the distance between mosques.

In KOTA BAHARU, former Kelantan PAS ulama wing secretary Wan Ismail Wan Ahmad urged Nik Aziz to do some soul searching as he had been issuing 'fatwa' (edicts) that condemned others without thinking of the consequences of his actions.

He said whenever Nik Aziz and Haji Hadi (PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang) issued a statement or 'fatwa' that was contradictory to Islamic teachings and followed blindly by their supporters, it would have a negative impact on society as a whole.

"He (Nik Aziz) should have good intentions instead. But his only intention now is to get to Putrajaya by overthrowing Barisan Nasional (BN)," he added when contacted on Monday.

Wan Ismail said Nik Abdul Aziz had gone 'senile' as he was prepared to label fellow Muslims (UMNO members) as infidels but willing to cooperate with DAP solely to fulfil his ambition of capturing Putrajaya.

He said UMNO struggled on the nationalistic spirit but it never rejected Islam, with Islam's position protected under the Federal Constitution, enabling it to be the country's official religion.

"With this and the funds available, the BN government could build mosques and religious schools," he said.

Former PAS central ulama committee member, Assoc Prof Md Noor Deris said Nik Aziz's statements showed that he was arrogant and conceited.

"He has thrown away the blessings given by Allah and speaks as though the question of heaven and hell is in his hands," he said.

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