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Monday May 14, 2007

Nik Aziz: Preachers must not impose on others

KOTA BARU: Islamic missionaries and those propagating its teachings must not impose their religious beliefs on others, said Menteri Besar and PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

“Islam must be embraced voluntarily and sincerely, especially among converts who come to the religion because of sheer belief or those who adopt the faith because of marriage,” Nik Aziz said when launching the state’s month-long *dakwah* (missionary activities) campaign at Balai Islam here.

“We cannot force people to enter Heaven. They must do it on their own will.

“We can guide them but we cannot force.”

He said that, similarly, all political parties could not impose their ideologies on the people.

Nik Aziz who is the Chempaka assemblyman, said politicians must be ashamed if they impose their will and ideologies on the weak.

“It is not intellectual or rational to impose a value system of politics. Islam does not do it, so why must they?”

“There is no capital to gain when Judgment Day befalls them in their spiritual life.”

He also said that missionaries were being overwhelmed by the rise of social ills from incest, rape, corruption, snatch thefts and murder.

This campaign was launched to help missionaries and those propagating Islam to find new ways to counter the rise of evils in society, Nik Aziz said.

He also said the proposed US\$7bil (RM23.8bil) 300km crude oil pipe- line project from Kedah to Kelantan had yet to be finalised.

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“We are still awaiting a briefing on the matter by the private initiators. The state is willing to compromise and allow the project to land in Bachok instead of Tumpat if the developers can convince us that it is more beneficial,” Nik Aziz said.

He said the reasons why the state originally wanted Tumpat as the landing zone was because it was nearer to southern Thailand and there was a railway link there.

He was commenting on reports over the project’s initial masterplan which was to link Yan in Kedah to Bachok in Kelantan.

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