



NEW DYNAMICS IN MALAYSIAN POLITICS SEMINAR SERIES

Leaving Siege Mentality Behind in Malay Politics

Date: Monday, 25 January 2010
Time: 3.00 pm – 4.30 pm
Venue: Seminar Room II, ISEAS

About the Speaker

Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad
State Assemblyman for Seri Setia,
Selangor and Political Secretary to
Selangor's Menteri Besar



Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad, 26, was elected as Seri Setia State Assemblyman in Selangor on 8 March 2008. He was the youngest candidate to win in the 12th General Elections, following which he was appointed Political Secretary to the Menteri Besar of Selangor, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Abdul Khalid Ibrahim.

He was private secretary to Parti Keadilan Rakyat's de-facto Leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in 2006-2008, and is currently Keadilan National Youth Exco member and Keadilan Kelana Jaya Division Vice Youth Chief.

Growing up in Petaling Jaya, Selangor, he attended SRK La Salle Petaling Jaya before being selected for the Malay College in Kuala Kangsar in 1995-1999. Later he pursued his A-Levels at Kolej Yayasan UEM. Following that, Nik Nazmi read law and earned his LLB (Hons) from King's College, University of London. For about a year after his graduation he worked at Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB).

In London, Nik Nazmi was active both in the university as well as Malaysian societies. He was Secretary General of the Malaysian Law Students Union (KPUM) from 2002-2003, Vice Chairman of Information for the United Kingdom Executive Council for Malaysian Students (UKEC) from 2003-2004 and Treasurer of King's College Labour Students from 2003-2004.

Nik Nazmi is a columnist at the *Malaysian Insider*. In 2001, he founded SuaraAnum.com, a web magazine for young Malaysians. He also founded the Desa Mentari Voluntary Tuition Center in 2007 with a former teacher and a group of young professionals to help primary school children from low-cost housing areas.



About the Seminar

Political discourses among Malaysian Malays are shifting radically, and what this means is that they now must face certain challenges in order to survive and succeed. These include embracing the emerging new politics, forging a people's economy, resolving educational issues, and reconsidering the position of Islam in a multiracial society.

While race will remain important as an identity, the myth of the racial zero sum-game has to be confronted, since the future of the Malays cannot be separated from that of Malaysians in general.

"Malays need to wake up from the siege mentality of seeing everyone conspiring to keep them backward. Similarly, the non-Malays need to stop seeing genuine moves to advance the national cause and national identity as insidious plots to destroy their cultural identities. It is attitudes like these that have constantly kept our people apart."

— Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad: *Moving Forward: Malays for the 21st Century*
(Marshall Cavendish 2010)

Niz Nazmi will also speak about the contents of his new book.

ISEAS is pleased to invite you to the Seminar.