

31 JUL 1996

NIK AZIZ THANKS FINANCE MINISTRY FOR GRANT

KOTA BAHARU, July 31 (Bernama) -- The PAS-led government today thanked the Finance Ministry for expediting the release of RM48 million being part of the annual grant to Kelantan.

Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said Kelantan was allocated an annual grant of RM109 million for administrative and development purposes.

"The money was received two days ago ... the state government was supposed to get it on Jan 1," he told reporters after chairing the weekly State Executive Council meeting here.

Nik Aziz said, compared to the past four years, this year's payment "is the fastest".

Asked whether this was the result of his recent meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Nik Aziz said, "No, it's the result of awareness."

He said the money would be used among others for development of district councils in the state. -- BERNAMA

RAR ABG