

05 DEC 1997

Mahathir-Nik Aziz

FEDERAL GOVT WILL TRY TO HELP KELANTAN OVERCOME ITS FINANCIAL WOES

LANGKAWI, Dec 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the federal government will look for ways to help the Kelantan government overcome its financial woes.

The prime minister said today the Kelantan PAS leadership had asked for a soft-loan from the federal government.

"The request was made a long time ago but we could not consider it," he told reporters after 30-minute meeting with Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Haji Nik Aziz Nik Mat at Hotel Langkasuka, here.

Dr Mahathir said Nik Aziz had wanted to meet him for a long time but due to the time factor, the meeting could not be held.

"We talked about the problems in Kelantan," he said.

On the soft loan requested by Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said the matter must be referred to the finance minister (Datuk Seri ANwar Ibrahim).

Meanwhile, Nik Aziz declined comment on the matter.

He said he was came to Langkawi because he was invited to the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (Lima '97) show.

"Dr Mahathir is the host...we just drank tea," he said.

Before the meeting, the prime minister and Nik Aziz performed Friday prayers at Masjid Temoyong, here. -- BERNAMA

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