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Kelantan Govt seeking soft loan, says PM

Kamarul Yunus

THE PAS-led Kelantan Government is seeking help from the Federal Government to overcome its financial problems, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"The Kelantan Government has asked for a soft loan from the Federal Government... the request was made a long time ago, but the Government has yet to give it any consideration," he told reporters after a one-hour meeting with Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat in Langkawi.

Asked why Nik Aziz is meeting him, Dr Mahathir said: "He (Nik Aziz) wants to meet me a long time ago ... months ago, but I have no time (to see him).

"We talk about the (financial) problems in Kelantan. I told him that we will seek ways to solve them."

On the sum of the loan sought by Kelantan, Dr Mahathir said he did not know of the figure. "I don't know... I have to ask the finance minister," he added.

Meanwhile, Nik Aziz declined to comment on the matter.

He told reporters that he was in Langkawi for the Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (Lima) 1997.

"I just had a cup of tea with the Prime Minister.

"It was a coincidence that we met during Friday prayers at the Kampung Temoyong mosque," he said.

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