

09 AUG 1997

KELANTAN SUPPORTS STREAMLINING OF SYARIAH LAWS

PASIR PUTEH, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- The Pas-led Kelantan state government in principle supports the proposal by the central government to streamline syariah laws enacted by the various states.

Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who voiced the support however questioned the implications of the streamlining.

"After the streamlining, will matters that contradict syariah laws like beauty contests continue to be allowed in places such as Selangor," he told reporters after opening the Tok Bali-Kampung Kuala Semerak road here today. The 3km road was built in 11 days.

Nik Aziz was asked to comment on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who among other things said the role and power of Muftis must be reviewed in the exercise to streamline syariah laws to avoid confusion.

Speaking at the function, Nik Aziz denied that Kelantan was against development projects as alleged by certain people.

He said Kelantan had always emphasised on development projects for the people as long as they were not inconsistent with Islamic teachings.

--BERNAMA

WM HAR SK