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Kelantan will maintain good ties, says Nik Aziz

reports on "Kelantan State Assembly" by Manisah Ismail
MENTERI Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat told the Kelantan Assembly that the State Government has and will continue to maintain good ties with the Federal Government.

"I have even expressed my support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the currency issue," he said, adding that the move was a reflection of the State Government's willingness to co-operate with the Federal Government.

He said relations between the State and Federal Government departments and agencies in Kelantan were also good.

"We have always extended our co-operation to the Federal Government and will continue to find ways to foster better relations with them," he added.

Responding to the original question by Nassuruddin Daud (Pas-Meranti), Nik Abdul Aziz said the form of co-operation extended by the State Government to the Federal Government could be seen from the development of the petro-chemical township at Pantai Senok in Bachok.

He said the project would be carried out on a joint venture between the State Economic Development Corporation and KUB.

To a supplementary question by Datuk Rozali Isohak (BN-Dabong) on whether the State Government has taken legal action against newspaper organisations for their reports on indiscriminate clearing at the Lojing Highlands, Nik Aziz said the State Government has yet to do so.

Rozali was referring to denials by the State Government that there was no excessive logging nor indiscriminate clearing at the Lojing Highlands as reported by some newspapers.

Nik Aziz also said the State Government has formed a special committee to oversee implementation of development projects in the area to ensure that they would not adversely affect the environment.

Meanwhile, State Executive Councillor Ahmad Yaakub said implementation of the development project at Pantai Senok would be carried out as planned despite the economic problem facing the country as a result of the depreciation of the ringgit.

However, he said the State Government would exercise judicious spending in a move to overcome the economic problem.

Ahmad, who is the State Trade, Industry, Entrepreneur Development and Human Resources Committee chairman, was responding to an original question by Hanafi Daud (Pas-Chetok) who wanted to know whether implementation of the project would be shelved following the problem facing the country.

To a supplementary question by Rozali on the expenses incurred by SEDC for the project, Ahmad said he would have to check on the matter.

Deputy Menteri Besar Abdul Halim Abdul Rahman, in response to a supplementary question by Hassan Mahmood (Pas-Tawang), said the newspaper reports on some SEDC subsidiaries suffering losses were baseless and libellous in nature.

Earlier, when answering the original question by Ahmad Rusli Iberahim (BN-Salor), he said the SEDC subsidiaries were making profits from their investments.

To a supplementary question by Kamaruddin Mohd Noor (BN-Semerak), Abdul Halim said SEDC was required to pay RM10 million annually as settlement of its debts with the State Government.

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