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Nik Aziz-Mahathir

NIK AZIZ:DON'T POLITICISE MAHATHIR'S VISIT

KOTA BAHARU, April 3 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the one-day working visit to Kelantan by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tomorrow should not be turned into a political issue.

"I don't really agree that the visit by the Prime Minister be politicized, in fact I will greet him (at the airport) as he is the Prime Minister and a statesman," he said after chairing the state exco meeting here today.

Nik Aziz urged the people especially Pas members to put aside their political affiliation to welcome the Prime Minister at the airport tomorrow morning.

"To Pas supporters, do not have any misconception or trying to politicize the Prime Minister's visit...let's put politics aside and we greet him as Prime Minister. Political problems can be addressed during elections in a democratic manner," he said.

Acknowledging Dr Mahathir's statesmanship, he said the Prime Minister had brought a lot of development to the country -- "too many to mention". As such, it was proper that the people of Kelantan give him a grand welcome.

He said Dr Mahathir's visit to PAS-controlled Kelantan or the "opposition state", would reduce the negative perception of Pas supporters towards Barisan Nasional leaders at the federal level.

"Insya-Allah, the visit will help reduce tension and brings about benefit," he said.

On Pas-Umno relationship, Nik Aziz hinted that "there might be a change in the future but I believe the present tension will be reduced."

He said an opposition party was needed in a country's political system to ensure that healthy competition prevailed. -- BERNAMA

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