

24 MAY 1997

NIK AZIZ DISAPPOINTED WITH KELANTAN LANDOWNERS

KOTA BAHARU, May 24 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today slammed landowners who sold their land at above market value hindering the government from implementing development projects for the people.

"I am disappointed ... when there are major projects that we want to carry out, they refuse to sell their land or they hike their prices ," said Nik Aziz.

He was responding to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement criticising some state governments for reselling land acquired under the Land Acquisition Act for profits.

"Sometimes, land is left abandoned ... but as soon as they know the government wants it, they quote ridiculous prices," said Nik Aziz.

Such selfishness created a burden on the government, he said, which would have to cancel development projects it could not afford, giving the people reason to further criticise it.

On Dr Mahahir's statement, Nik Aziz said the state government had no problems cooperating with the federal government on land matters. --

BERNAMA

RAR LL RN