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Nik Aziz: I wasn't invited to meeting

Manisah Ismail

KOTA BARU, Wed. - Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said he was not invited to a meeting to discuss the increasing social problems affecting youths held at the Pusat Islam today.

"I want to attend the meeting, but there is no invitation for me," he told reporters after chairing today's weekly State Exco meeting at Kota Darulnaim.

Nik Aziz, who is head of the Pas consultative council, said Pas had discussed the problem affecting youths with heads of other religions about four years ago.

"We all agreed that immediate steps should be taken to check on moral decadence to prevent the situation from becoming worse," he added.

He suggested that the Federal Government emulate the Kelantan Government in fighting social problems among youth.

He said the State had taken steps earlier to overcome the problems such as the ban on video games and snooker centres.

"I would have raised these if I was at the meeting," he said in response to the special meeting chaired by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to discuss causes and find solutions to the increasing social problems affecting youth at Pusat Islam today.

It was reported that the meeting was also attended by the Menteris Besar, Chief Ministers and Religious Department officials from all States.

The meeting was called following the increasing reports of social problems affecting the youths, especially those in the Klang Valley.

Last Saturday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said that the problems affecting youths in the Klang Valley included gangsterism, dadah abuse and sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS.

The shocking discovery was made after a study on indiscipline among youths which was carried out in the Klang Valley last year.

The study, among others, revealed that 70 per cent of the youths aged 13 to 21 smoked, 40 per cent watched pornographic films, 28 per cent were involved in gambling and 14 per cent took hard drugs.

Teenage crimes also increased from 2,480 cases in 1970 to 4,012 in 1995.

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