

24 AUG 1997

NIK AZIZ SAYS NO TO BODYBUILDING UNLESS OVER-EXPOSING STOPPED

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today Muslim men should not be allowed to take part in bodybuilding contests unless they stopped over-exposing their bodies.

He said he was not against bodybuilding and it could be held if participants covered their 'aurat' (the portion between the naval and thighs) possibly by wearing trousers.

He was commenting on the Sarawak Islamic Affairs Department's move to prohibit Muslims from taking part in bodybuiding contests on the ground that the exposing of the 'aurat' was not permitted under Islam.

"We are the same whether in Kelantan or Sarawak. The exposing of aurat by both man and woman is prohibited," Nik Aziz told reporters.

On the call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a reformation among Muslims to enable them to return to the true Islamic thinking and values, Nik Aziz said PAS had long been carrying out that through the party's struggles. -- BERNAMA

RAR SK