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PAS-Mahathir

PAS SUPPORTS DR MAHATHIR IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 15 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today the state governments' support of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at a time when the country is facing economic woes is the appropriate thing to do and one demanded by Islam.

He said all parties should unite in the interests of the nation and the people although all this while PAS had been critical of the Barisan Nasional leadership.

"When our country is in crisis we must unite, look after the government but we will definitely criticise the mistakes committed (by the leaders), he said after chairing the state executive council meeting, here.

He said Dr Mahathir need not resign his post now as suggested by the foreign media. He had only to ensure that all wasteful practices and unprofitable mega projects were stopped as demanded by PAS all this while.

"In terms of resignation, I say don't, but in terms of extravagance and wastage we (PAS) must hit out and oppose," he said.

Asked whether his stand would be detrimental to PAS' political interest, he said PAS did not oppose everything done by the federal government as that would be wrong and unIslamic.

He said the stand would also not confuse PAS' supporters who understood its struggle.

Nik Aziz also said that the state government was stepping up efforts to cut administrative expenses in line with the federal government's circular to all the state governments to go an an austerity drive.

A circular would be issued to all government offices directing them to switch off the lights during the lunch hour and to turn off the air-conditioning 30 minutes before the end of office hours and state receptions would be cancelled, he said.

He said the austerity drive by the PAS leaders before this had enabled Kelantan to settle part of its loans from the federal government. --

BERNAMA

RAR JK