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Nik Aziz determined to hold on to his post

KOTA BARU, Sun. - Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today brushed aside Kelantan Umno's call for his resignation, saying that it would only strengthen his resolve to hold on to his post.

"The more Umno urges me to step down, the stronger is my resolve to hold on to my post," he said.

Describing himself as Umno's enemy, Nik Aziz said his presence in the State Government had caused uneasiness among Umno members.

As such, he said Umno would come up with various ploys to exert pressure on him to quit.

"Probably my views on different issues have placed Umno members in a lot of trouble," he told reporters after opening the dadah awareness programme for village headmen.

Kelantan Umno, at its convention yesterday, had passed a resolution calling Nik Aziz to resign, saying that the State Government's administration under his leadership was inefficient.

On whether the resolution was in retaliation to the recent Pas call on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to step down, Nik Aziz said it was a political move.

Asked on cultural activities after he opened the 1998 International Kite Festival here, Nik Aziz said Kelantan was drafting a bill requiring cultural performances to conform to Islamic requirements.

The proposed bill was being studied by a special committee chaired by state Culture, Tourism, Youth and Sports Committee chairman Abdullah Ya'kub.

"We expect to table the bill at the next sitting of the State Legislative Assembly," Nik Aziz was quoted by Bernama.

The committee, comprising academicians and Culture, Arts and Tourism Ministry officials, among others, will study the forms of cultural shows that do not contravene Islamic teachings.

The proposed bill would also define in general the form of dikir barat that can be permitted in the state.

The State Executive Council last week imposed a freeze on dikir barat performances following public complaints of undesirable features projected by the performers.

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