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Nik Aziz: Soros' comments complicate matters

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Several more people today took to task currency trader George Soros for meddling in the country's affairs by calling for the ouster of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the release of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Soros' latest statement had caused fear among Opposition parties as highlighted by Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat who said that the currency trader's remarks might affect their future.

In Kota Baru, Nik Aziz urged Soros to "shut up" as his comments on Malaysian politics would complicate matters for Pas and the Opposition.

Saying the currency trader lacked finesse, Nik Aziz added Soros' comment had given an impression that the Opposition was under the dictate of foreigners.

"It has become a problem for us now if we continue to oppose the ruling party as we will appear to be following Soros' orders.

"If he asks us to topple (Dr Mahathir), we in turn will ask him to shut up," he said when asked to comment on Soros' call for Dr Mahathir's ouster.

It was reported yesterday that Soros, in a speech at a US university on Thursday, had called for Dr Mahathir's ouster and the release of Anwar who is on trial for corruption.

Nik Aziz, who is Pas consultative council head, said if the foreigners wished for a new Government in Malaysia, they should let the Opposition carry out its task. He said Malaysians should also wait for the general election to make their choice of Government as it was the only democratic process.

He also reiterated his stand that Malaysians were capable of resolving their internal problems without foreign intervention.

In Langkawi, at the simultaneous opening of the Farmers' Management Institute and the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Organisation, Dr Mahathir in a lighter vein said:

"I thank all of you farming heroes who have expressed support for me. I will relay it to Soros. Maybe he won't believe, but that's okay."

* COMMENTS BY OTHERS ON PAGE 2

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