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Nik Aziz: Don't misuse mosques

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today said mosques should not be used as places to hold demonstrations.

He said mosques were supposed to be used to carry out good activities like sembahyang hajat (special prayers).

He told reporters this after launching the Kesatuan Penghulu/Penggawa Semenanjung Malaysia 24th general assembly.

On Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's supporters who demonstrated at the National Mosque yesterday, Nik Aziz said:

"If they want to perform sembahyang hajat as the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) had called for, the mosque is a suitable place but not for other things," he said.

In Kuantan, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob said Anwar's supporters must stop holding illegal assemblies especially in mosques.

"Organising such assemblies is already unlawful, let alone at mosques which are holy places," he said.

He said mosques were a symbol of the greatness of Islam and must always be protected.

"Any move to tarnish the good image of mosques by staging illegal assemblies there must be opposed," he said.

Khalil said he hoped that there would be no more such incidents. He also asked those who were merely curious on-lookers to stay away from illegal gatherings.

"At the same time, Anwar's supporters should stay calm and be patient, and wait for his case to be brought to court," he said.

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