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Mahathir-Challenge

DR M WILL NOT CONTEST IF NIK AZIZ CAN PROVE CLAIM ON PROFANITY

JITRA, July 19 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has offered not to contest in the next general election if Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat can prove that God profanes in the Al-Quran.

"I am willing not to contest if Nik Aziz can point out such words in the Al-Quran," he said at a meet-the-people session in Kampung Ketol at Batu 17 here today.

On the other hand, Nik Aziz should quit as the Menteri Besar if he could not prove his claim, the Prime Minister said.

Dr Mahathir said one should not say something about religion merely for political gains.

Nik Aziz, in defending the use of profanities by national laureate and PAS life member Datuk Shahnnon Ahmad in his book Shit, had said that God permitted the use of vulgarities in certain circumstances.

At the Umno General Assembly last month, Dr Mahathir offered RM100,000 to anyone who could prove that God allowed profanities in the Al-Quran.

Many people, including politicians, have criticised the book Shit for its crude language because the use of vulgar words was not consistent with the local culture and religions.

Present at the ceremony were Dr Mahathir's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali and Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

-- BERNAMA

JM YBY