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NIK AZIZ SHOULD TAKE UP CHALLENGE, SAYS TENGKU RAZALEIGH

KOTA BAHARU, July 21 (Bernama) -- PAS council of ulamas chief Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat should take up the challenge issued by the Prime Minister over his (Nik Aziz) statement that the Quran permits Muslims to utter vulgarities.

Kelantan Umno liaison committee chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said Nik Aziz should take up the challenge so as to clear the confusion which he has caused among Muslims.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Monday offered not to contest in the coming general election if Nik Aziz could prove his contention that verses in the Quran permits Muslims to use vulgarities.

The Prime Minister also challenged Nik Aziz to relinquish all his posts and end his political career if he failed to show such proof.

"I feel Nik Aziz has to reply to the challenge issued by Dr Mahathir, he (Nik Aziz) can't just sidestep it," Tengku Razaleigh said after a meeting with Kelantan Umno Youth here today.

He said if Nik Aziz was adamant in not wanting to clarify on his statement, it would indicate that the Kelantan Menteri Besar who is known as a "tok guru" has shirked his responsibility.

In his reply today, Nik Aziz said the challenge issued by Dr Mahathir was a political gimmick.

-- BERNAMA
MNR/RAR THG