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NIK AZIZ ON SAME WAVE LENGTH WITH PRIME MINISTER ON EAST TIMOR ISSUE

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 1 (Bernama) --Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat agrees to the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Asean provide the UN peacekeeping force in East Timor.

"Asean is a family and it is better they be allowed to resolve their own problem rather than outsiders," said Nik Aziz who is also Chairman of the Council of Ulamas.

"It will be easier for Asean to ensure peace and order rather than outsiders who do not know the culture of the Asean people," he told reporters here.

Nik Aziz said this when commenting on the Prime Minister's statement that Australia be asked to reduce its forces and Asean take over the duty of ensuring security and peace in East Timor.

"Generally the Asean people are a people with a religion and are caring and they know better the situation there than those outside Asean," Nik Aziz said.

--BERNAMA

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