

21 JUL 1999

NIK AZIZ SAYS PM DARE A POLITICAL GIMMICK

KOTA BAHARU, July 21 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said the challenge issued to him by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a political gimmick.

Dr Mahathir on Monday offered not to stand in the coming general election if Nik Aziz could prove that verses in the Quran permitted Muslims to use vulgarities.

The Prime Minister had also challenged Nik Aziz to relinquish all his posts if he failed to show such proof.

Nik Aziz said after chairing the Kelantan state executive council meeting here today that since the challenge was a political gimmick, it was appropriate that he replied as a politician.

On the possibility that Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar, the former Tumpat Umno division chief who joined PAS yesterday, would be fielded in the coming general election, Nik Aziz said this would be decided by others.

He also said efforts to establish a splinter party by a Kedai Mulong PAS branch committee member Zainal Abidin Mat Yusof would not affect the position of PAS.

-- BERNAMA
BD MAI THG