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PM challenges Nik Aziz to prove claim or resign

ALOR STAR, Mon. - The idea that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will not defend his Kubang Pasu seat in the forthcoming general election may alarm some but this is the prospect that the Prime Minister himself posed today.

However, there's a catch - Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat has to prove that the Quran contained the profane words used in Datuk Shahnnon Ahmad's controversial political satire *Shit*.

"If he is brave enough and can show me that the word is used in the Quran," Dr Mahathir said, "I will not contest (in the general election)."

"Otherwise, he should resign from the Menteri Besar's post, as assemblyman and also retire from politics completely."

He was speaking to Kampung Ketul villagers in Tunjang, about 30km from here, during his regular meet-the-people session in his Parliamentary constituency.

Also present were his wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Information Minister and Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and his wife Puan Sri Inangda Manyam Keumala.

Nik Aziz was reported to have said that Islam does not forbid its followers from using filthy words in some circumstances.

Nik Aziz was also reported to have sanctioned the use of obscene and vulgar words used in Shahnnon's novel by saying that the Quran also contained words that could be regarded as profane.

The Umno president said one should not stoop so low as to insult God by saying that since the Almighty used profanities, it was alright for humans to do the same.

There was a tendency by some people to interpret religion to suit their own purposes because they were politicians seeking the people's support, he said.

"They say things which are completely untrue," he said. "Read the Quran, read any kitab (religious books)...such filthy words are never used."

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