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Nik Aziz-Restaurant

NO PROOF SEPARATE RESTAURANTS WILL LEAD TO SEGREGATION, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, June 30 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said there is no proof that having separate restaurants for Muslims and non-Muslims will lead to segregation.

He said Kelantan has long enforced such a measure and todate, there has not been a problem raised.

"There are specific premises that sell alcoholic drinks to non-Muslims and there are also certain shops that are permitted to sell pork," he told reporters after delivering his Friday lecture at the PAS office here today.

Nik Aziz was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday that his (Nik Aziz's) proposal for separate restaurants for Muslims and non-Muslims be set up will not promote unity in Malaysia's plural society.

Nik Aziz said his proposal was akin to the smoking ban in public places, hospitals and government offices introduced by the Federal government that has now proved successful in reducing the number of smokers.

Since there are Muslims and non-Muslims in this world, he said it was automatic that there are certain places and matters which are taboo to one group or the other.

"If just for unity, only Islam can unite all the races. When there is man and woman, we can't expect men to bear children," he said.

In his lecture, Nik Aziz, who is also PAS spiritual adviser, said the question of from which race a future Malaysian Prime Minister could come from did not arise.

For PAS, he said, it was more important that the candidate must be a Muslim.

Nik Aziz was referring to a statement by Dr Mahathir two weeks ago that a non-Malay could in future become Prime Minister of the country as there was nothing in the Constitution that restricted so.

-- BERNAMA

WM THG