

Dr M: Nik Aziz in the dark

SUN - 7 AUG 2001
'He does not know what his son is involved in'

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LUMUT, Mon: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today said Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat is in the dark about what his son, Nik Adli, was doing and his involvement with the Malaysian Mujahidin group.

He said Nik Adli, 34, was involved in the militant movement to topple the government of the day by use of force.

"What we do know is that he is a member of the militant Mujahidin movement and that is the reason why he was arrested (under the Internal Security Act)," he told reporters after visiting the PSC-

Naval Dockyard here today

Nik Adli, a teacher at SM Arab Darul Anwar in Pulau Melaka, Kelantan, was detained at the Kelantan police headquarters in Kota Baru at about 10.30am on Saturday for alleged involvement in the Islamic militant group, whose activities could undermine national security.

Mahathir said the government has yet to determine the extent of Nik Adli's involvement in the group.

He said this when asked to comment on Nik Aziz's statement yesterday that it was the responsibility of Muslims to help other Muslims such as opposing Russian imperialism in Afghanistan.

Mahathir said although Nik Aziz stated it was normal for Muslims to be

involved in the holy war in Afghanistan, the menteri besar does not know what his son was actually doing.

He also dispelled accusations made by the Opposition that the detention of 10 of the group members under the ISA was politically motivated.

"If it was nolitically motivated, we would have arrested Nik Aziz, Hadi Awang and Fadzil Noor... these are the main leaders, even bigger than Kit Siang and the rest."

He pointed out that the government did not do this but arrested only those who showed signs of creating instability and chaos, or those who threatened national security.

"If they (Nik Aziz, Hadi and Fadzil Noor) showed signs of creating trouble, we might arrest them. We

are not afraid. the people are behind us."

Asked if the government will monitor religious teachers in PAS-managed religious schools, he said the authorities will have to look at all groups of people.

"One of the detainee is said to be a cake seller, looked very innocent but he was involved with this group. He has learnt to make bombs, detonate bombs."

Mahathir said the activities of the group have to be checked immediately as incidents such as attacking police stations to seize weapons, bomb explosions in some places and bank robberies rarely happened before.

In fact, a Barisan Nasional assemblyman was shot dead, he added.