

13 APR 2001

PAS AGAINST HUGE STREET DEMONSTRATIONS, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, April 13 (Bernama) -- PAS is against huge street demonstrations as they may not be in line with the country's system of parliamentary democracy, its spiritual adviser Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said today.

"Such demonstrations go against the system of democracy that has long been practised," he said.

But Nik Aziz added that the government should not deny opposition parties the freedom of expression as that too was not in keeping with the system.

It would be unreasonable if opposition parties were not allowed to demonstrate and at the same time denied the freedom of expression, he told reporters after presenting a lecture at the post office here.

Nik Aziz, who is Kelantan Menteri Besar, said this when asked to comment on the detention of seven "reformasi" supporters under the Internal Security Act for their alleged involvement in planning large scale street demonstrations in the federal capital tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday said the seven were detained as the demonstrations would have resulted in violence.

-- BERNAMA

WM BD SK