

PUM disappointed over criticism for defending Nik Aziz

1st 21 AUG 2002

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Muslim Scholars Association of Malaysia (PUM) is disappointed at being accused of not being a true ulama association for its defence of Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

PUM president Abdul Ghani Samsudin said the association was displeased with the assertion made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

“Nik Aziz is a distinguished ulama who has, for years, taught Muslims to abide by God’s laws and teachings. Nik Aziz’s commitment to defending and serving the religion through the political platform was proof of his dedication to the teachings of God and the Prophet.

“PUM is not affected by those who do not acknowledge PUM as a true ulama association. Their denial of

this is akin to the denial of a blind person to the existence of the sun.”

Last Friday, the Prime Minister stated that the PUM was not a true ulama association as it defended Nik Aziz, who has been criticised for referring to God as a thug.

Dr Mahathir also said it was also appropriate for PUM to turn into a Pas branch.

On Aug 11, PUM stated that it was not an insult to refer to God as a thug as it was only a comparison meant to instil the realisation that humans were limited in their status compared to the Creator.

On becoming a branch of Pas, Abdul Ghani said that PUM was an independent religious body and was supportive of the Government, citing as an example its efforts to establish a monetary system based on the gold dinar.