

## Dr M forgives and pardons Nik Aziz

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he forgives Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat for his comments that the Prime Minister does not know how to recite the Quran.

"Yes. I forgive him ... I also *ampun* (pardon) him," he said at the airport here yesterday.

Nik Aziz had claimed in a *ceramah* recently that Dr Mahathir had admitted he did not know how to recite the Quran.

Following this, a businessman lodged a police report against the PAS leader for his remarks, after which Nik Aziz said it was a slip of the tongue.

Nik Aziz said what he really wanted to say was that the Prime Minister did not know Arabic.

He also said he was willing to make an apology to Dr Mahathir at another *ceramah*.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir could not resist taking a dig at Nik Aziz.

"He (Nik Aziz) too does not really know the Arabic language. What he does know is the Urdu language," he said in an apparent reference to the fact that Nik Aziz had studied in Lucknow, India for his first degree and thus was able to speak Urdu.

However, Nik Aziz also did his masters degree at Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.