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Mahathir-Apology/BM

DR MAHATHIR PREPARED TO ACCEPT NIK AZIZ'S APOLOGY

SUBANG, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he is prepared to forgive Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat for his accusation that the prime minister did not know how to recite the Quran.

"I forgive," he said when asked to comment on a news report yesterday quoting Nik Aziz as saying that he would apologise to the prime minister for his mistake but it would be done at a ceramah as the mistake was committed at another ceramah.

Dr Mahathir was speaking at a news conference upon his return from attending the Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in Denmark and a visit to Europe.

On the PAS spiritual leader's statement that what he meant to say was that the prime minister did not know Arabic, Dr Mahathir said: "He is also not fluent in Arabic. He speaks Urdu."

Nik Aziz was reported to have studied in India before furthering his studies at the Al-Azhar University in Egypt.

Asked whether Nik Aziz should talk less, Dr Mahathir said: "That's possible. People won't know our ignorance if we don't talk."

Asked about the Gaya parliamentary by-election to be held on Oct 12, he said the Barisan Nasional candidate would be decided on soon.

-- BERNAMA

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