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DR M CAN CONTRIBUTE EVEN IN RETIREMENT, SAYS NIK AZIZ

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has welcomed Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's willingness to continue speaking up for the Muslim world even after he retires next year.

Nik Aziz said the prime minister had the leadership qualities and character to help Islamic countries.

"Seldom do we see a leader of a small country like Malaysia willing to stand up to big powers, like what Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir is doing," he told reporters here today.

Nik Aziz, who is also PAS spiritual leader, said this when asked to comment on Dr Mahathir's statement in Jeddah that he is prepared to continue to play a role to create understanding and ease tension between the Muslim world and the West after he retires.

Nik Aziz said he also shared Dr Mahathir's view that oil-rich Saudi Arabia is in a position to become a world power to protect the well-being of the ummah and the religion.

-- BERNAMA

RAR YBY