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Dr M the right man for role, says Nik Aziz

KOTA BARU, Mon. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is the right person to take on the role of creating understanding and easing tension between the Muslim world and the West, said Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat.

Nik Aziz, who welcomed Dr Mahathir's statement that he was prepared to take on the role after his retirement in October next year, said the Prime Minister had the qualities of a world leader. He was hard working, dedicated and willing to face the superpowers.

"It is difficult to find small countries like Malaysia that dare to go against the wishes of America, but Dr Mahathir has done it.

"His readiness to continue speaking for the Muslim world is good for everybody," he said.

Nik Aziz said, however, that Dr Mahathir must clarify the direction in which he would be heading as Nik Aziz claimed he was inclined towards secularism and not Islam.

Dr Mahathir said in Jeddah yesterday that he was prepared to continue playing a role to bridge the gap between the West and Muslims after his retirement.