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Nik Aziz re-affirms willingness to apologise

KOTA BARU, Sat. - Kelantan Menteri Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat today re-affirmed his willingness to apologise publicly for saying that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had admitted to not knowing how to recite the Quran.

Nik Aziz, speaking at the Pas-organised Kelantan Muslimat gathering at the Pusat Tarbiah Islamiah Kelantan in Pengkalan Chepa, however, did not say when he would make the formal apology.

He had admitted his mistake and had also explained that it was really a slip of the tongue.

"If I don't apologise at one ceramah, those who want to hear my apology can always go to other ceramah," he said in his closing speech.

Nik Aziz said his willingness to apologise should also spur others who have made similar mistakes to do the same.

He admitted his mistake on Wednesday, saying what he wanted to say was that Dr Mahathir did not know Arabic.

Last Sunday, a businessman lodged a report at the Bachok police station against Nik Aziz for the remarks made at a ceramah at Sekolah Menengah Agama Arab Beris Lalang last Saturday.