

01/08/2002

Nik Aziz: Statement taken out of context

KOTA BARU, Wed. - Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today said his statement that Allah is a gangster has been taken out of context.

He said he had used that term to reflect how supreme and mighty God is compared with human beings.

"We are nothing compared to Him," he said after launching the State-level Warriors' Day celebrations at Padang Pahlawan, here.

Nik Aziz, who is Kelantan Menteri Besar, said he wanted to drive home the message to the people that whatever they did, they could never compete with the might of Allah.

"I have said in that speech that Allah is also known as Al-Mutakabbir (The Almighty), Al-Jabbar (The Most Stout) and Al-Muntakim (The Revengeful). People should be frightened to go against God at the mere mention of these names.

"The names demonstrate that He is superior than all the gangsters in this world, be it Namrud during Prophet Abraham's time, the Pharaoh during Prophet Moses' or Abu Jahal during Prophet Muhammad's," he said.

Nik Aziz was asked to comment on video clips being aired by Radio Television Malaysia on his "Allah is a gangster" remarks.

"To the Kelantan people, the term samseng (gangster) instills much fear unlike the words berkuasa (powerful) which has little impact to them," he said.

He said it was up to RTM whether to interpret the message that he wanted to drive home correctly or otherwise.

Nik Aziz said he was using contemporary language.

"To the experts, language is a living creature. It is not static and it is not necessary for us to stick to the translation used a hundred years ago. We can change it as long as the message of Allah reaches the people," he said.

Nik Aziz was also asked about the alleged slanderous remarks against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by former Pas MP for Bachok Bunyamin Yaakob.

"Itu saya tak dengar...itu dia punya pasal lah (that I did not hear, that's his own problem).

"Newspapers are harping on this but I want to point out that there are still a lot of cases involving the lives of Pas members," said Nik Aziz.