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Nik Aziz-Apology/BM

NIK AZIZ SENDS LETTER TO MAHATHIR OVER QURAN REMARK

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 30 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat wrote a letter to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today to "clear the air" over his statement that the prime minister does not know how to recite the Quran.

Anual Bakhri Haron, the menteri besar's political secretary, said Nik Aziz was sending the personal letter in appreciation of Dr Mahathir's decision to forgive him on the matter.

"With the sending of this letter, the matter is now considered settled," Anual told reporters at the menteri besar's office.

Last Wenesday, Nik Aziz admitted that he made a mistake when he remarked a few days a earlier that Dr Mahathir did not know how to recite the Quaran.

The PAS spiritual adviser said what he meant to say was that the prime minister did not know Arabic, and that he would apologise to the prime minister over his mistake.

Dr Mahathir, in his response yesterday, said he accepted Nik Aziz's apology and forgave him.

Anual, showing reporters the letter from Nik Aziz to Dr Mahathir, said there was now no longer a need for the menteri besar to make his apology at a ceramah.

Nik Aziz had earlier wanted to make the apology at a ceramah since he made the accusation against Dr Mahathir at a ceramah.

Gua Musang Umno division chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah yesterday said Nik Aziz should issue a personal apology to Dr Mahathir on the matter.

-- BERNAMA

RAR SK