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NIK AZIZ SHOULD APOLOGISE TO AVOID PROSECUTION - RAIS

SIMPANG PERTANG (Jelebu), Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said today the head of the PAS Ulama Council, Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat should apologise to the Prime Minister if he wants to avoid legal action.

This was because Nik Aziz's allegation that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad could not read the Al-quran contained false news whereby action could be taken under the Printing Presses and Publications Act, he said.

"Not everything should be taken to court because it originated from political speeches, but the government has to take action if the allegations were excessive," he told reporters after giving out letters of commission for projects to class F contractors and Yayasan Tekun Nasional (Tekun) loans for the Jelebu parliamentary constituency, here.

Dr Rais was asked on the action that could be taken against the opposition leader for making the statement in a ceramah in Bachok, Kelantan. (Nik Aziz, however, was reported to have made a mistake because what he had intended to say was that Dr Mahathir could not speak Arabic, and he was prepared to tender an apology).

Dr Rais said the matter could be considered resolved if Nik Aziz apologised as everyone had their own weaknesses.

-- BERNAMA
APG RON AO