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Kelantan-schools

NIK AZIZ WARNS TEACHERS AGAINST INCITING ANTI-FEDERAL GOVT SENTIMENTS

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat today warned teachers in Sekolah Agama Rakyat (people's Islamic religious schools) not to incite students against the federal government.

He said stern action would be taken against those who failed to heed the warning.

"We can take action against them for doing things to their own liking and those not provided in the curriculum," he told reporters after presenting his weekly lecture at the PAS Headquarters here.

Nik Aziz, who is also PAS spiritual adviser, was commenting on the federal government's move to halt funding such Islamic religious schools if they were used by certain parties to spread their political influence.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed in the announcing the move recently said funding would be resumed if the negative activities stopped.

Nik Aziz said that if funding was not immediately provided, it would place Islamic religious schools in the state in a grave position.

"It is already a meagre income for the teachers and now plus this, stopping the funding...they have the heart to dampen the spirit of Islam," he said.

He said the state government had allocated RM32 million to pay salaries for the teachers and build new schools but the money was far from enough.

On a suggestion that the schools be taken over the Education Minister, he said it would not be appropriate such the people would have no choice.

He said the state government would oppose such move because it was contrary to the wishes of the people who sent their children to such schools which used Arabic as the medium of instruction.

--BERNAMA

WM RAR ABG