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Repent or face legal action, Nik Aziz warned

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Legal action will be taken against Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat if he still refuses to admit his mistake, retract his remarks and repent for linking Allah to a samseng (thug).

Religious Adviser to the Prime Minister Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman said Nik Aziz's remarks had insulted Allah by describing Him as a bigger gangster, crook and liar than all others, and was contrary to the Islamic teaching and could mislead Muslims.

"According to the teaching of Islam, Nik Aziz will be given a reasonable length of time to think about his remarks and then repent. If not, we can take action against him under Section 298 of the Penal Code."

Under the section, it is an offence for anyone to engage in any activity that is likely to cause disharmony, enmity, hatred, affront and ill-will, or was likely to prejudice the maintenance of harmony, on grounds of religion.

"Such action can be taken as a police report had been lodged against Nik Aziz at the Baling police station."

Yesterday, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said after chairing the party's supreme council meeting that action would be taken against Nik Aziz and others who insulted Allah.

Earlier, Nik Aziz had said the question of him having to repent for equating Allah with the attributes of human beings did not arise. He said he was prepared to be taken to court for his remarks as he felt he was right.

On Nik Aziz's request that an intellectual discourse be held first before taking any action against him, Hamid said there was no need for one.

"We are not looking for an interpretation anymore. A discourse is held when we want to look for an interpretation," he said.