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UP TO NIK AZIZ WHETHER TO APOLOGISE, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LANGAT, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- It is up to PAS spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat whether or not to apologise after admitting making a mistake in his allegation against the prime minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

A person would normally apologise if he had made a mistake, the deputy prime minister said when asked by reporters whether the Kelantan menteri besar should apologise for his mistake in accusing Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamd of not knowing how to recite the Quran.

Nik Aziz was reported to have said and that what he meant to say was that Dr Mahathir did not know Arabic and that the mistake was due to a slip of the tongue.

Asked whether a state leader should have made such a mistake, Abdullah said: "Mistakes do happen. It's up to Nik Aziz. If he made a mistake he should explain."

He said it was up to the person who had lodged a report over Nik Aziz's remarks to take the next course of action now that Nik Aziz had admitted his mistake.

On Sunday, Bachok Umno division Youth chief Mohamed Zain Yassim lodged a police report against Nik Aziz for his remarks made at a ceramah in Bachok.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ JK