

Kelantan to maintain Friday weekend holiday

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KELANTAN will maintain Friday as a weekend holiday despite suggestions to have it reverted to Sunday, *Berita Harian* reported.

Mentri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat said the matter had nothing to do with politics but rather because Friday was a special day in Islam and for the people in the state to acquire knowledge.

"Friday is a significant day in Islam, as it is the day when the Prophet Adam left and returned to heaven, and Friday will also be Judgment Day.

"Therefore, it never crossed my mind to change the weekend holiday for Kelantan to another day," he said after the 1Akaun Amanah Kebajikan Darulnaim (Tabung Serambi Makkah) celebrations at Kota

Darulnaim in Kota Baru on Thursday.

He was commenting on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that it was politics and not religion that was stopping the weekend holiday to be held on the same day in the whole country.

Currently, Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah have their weekend holiday on Friday.

In Alor Star, Kedah Religious Affairs Committee chairman Fadzil Hanafi said that Islam never designated any particular day as a holiday and when to carry out worldly affairs.

"If a state has a holiday on Friday but its people don't pray and perform religious obligations, it is also not right because Islam states that we must work

after we pray, not sit around holidaying," he said.

In *Utusan Malaysia*, Awang Selamat in his *Bisik-bisik* column questioned why Muslims were still weak when they now number 1.3 billion in world.