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Tok Guru-Advice

NIK AZIZ URGED TO TELL PEOPLE NOT TO CALL HIM "TOK GURU"

KOTA BAHARU, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat must advise the people in the state to stop addressing him as "Tok Guru" before he can accuse others of idolising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Deputy Information Minister Datuk Zainuddin Maidin said the directive that the people addressed the Kelantan Menteri Besar as "Tok Guru" was a PAS political agenda while Dr Mahathir had never asked the people to idolise him, in fact there were no roads, buildings or anything else named after him.

"The idolisation resulted from a directive from the State Government through a circular issued in 1991 urging that the Menteri Besar be addressed as 'Tok Guru'," he said at a press conference, here today.

Zainuddin was commenting on the report in the Harakah, the PAS official organ, in its latest issue (Oct 16-31) questioning who was behind the agenda idolising Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, which was considered excessive lately to the extent that it had reached the level of idolisation of a leader.

Nik Aziz, who is also head of the PAS advisory council, was reported as saying that the agenda was masterminded by the Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) to ensure that he could safely succeed Dr Mahathir.

Zainuddin said what Nik Aziz did had affected the image of Islam because it had caused more confusion as there might be others who were not qualified who were also addressed as Tok Guru.

Now, the title Tok Guru for the Menteri Besar has also been adopted by Terengganu which has been under PAS rule since the 1999 general election.

He said the move had confused many people because it was aimed at ensuring that the PAS political agenda succeeded.

-- BERNAMA

MNR BD AO