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Nik Aziz-Mahathir

PAS DOESN'T FEEL GUILTY SAYING DR MAHATHIR WAS `PLAY ACTING`

KOTA BAHARU, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- PAS does not feel guilty making statements that Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was play-acting with regard to his intention to relinquish the post of Prime Minister because it was the party's tactic to force him to retire, said PAS Spiritual Advisor Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat.

He said the purpose of the party, including himself, in insisting that Dr Mahathir was merely play-acting was to ensure that the former Prime Minister truly fulfilled his pledge to relinquish all posts.

"All statements made by PAS previously, that Tun Dr Mahathir's announcement about his planned retirement was merely a drama, was a tactic to force him to actually retire.

"We pressured him that if he did not retire, he would bear the shame and so on," he said at a media conference at his office, here.

Nik Aziz claimed that Dr Mahathir "used to change his mind on many matters", and if PAS did not play up the issue, he could again change his mind about retiring.

"As such, we made statements that he was just play-acting. Hopefully then, he would not change his mind. If he did change his mind, then he would have been play-acting.

"Like it or not, he must actually step down so that he would not be trapped by our statement...We are relieved that he eventually retired," he said.

Dr Mahathir had announced his intention to step down from government and party posts at the Umno General Assembly last year but was prevented from doing so by Umno members. He retired on Friday and was succeeded by Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

Asked whether the Kelantan government would extend an official invitation to Abdullah to visit Kelantan, Nik Aziz said he hoped to do so.

-- BERNAMA

RAR MAI AO