

15/09/2003

Nik Aziz to attend event out of respect for PM

KELANTAN Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat said that he is attending today's opening of the Sultan Ismail Petra bridge in Pasir Mas by Sultan of Kelantan, an event also to be attended by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as a sign of respect for the Prime Minister.

Nik Aziz, who is also Pas spiritual leader, said his move was in accordance with Islamic teachings which called for Muslims to respect their leaders.

"Some Pas members might question why I am participating in a function attended by Dr Mahathir.

"If that is what you are thinking, my answer is as the State Menteri Besar, I have to respect Dr Mahathir's position as the Prime Minister," he said in his winding up speech at the end of the 49th Pas muktamar yesterday.

Nik Aziz said that although Kelantan was governed by Pas, the people still enjoyed development.

He also asked muktamar permanent chairman Abu Kassim Abdullah that he be allowed to deliver his speech earlier as he had to catch a flight to Kota Baru.

The last time Nik Aziz and Dr Mahathir met in Kelantan was on Jan 14 1999 when Dr Mahathir visited the State.