

Nik Aziz: Not using brains on oil royalty sinful
MalaysiaKini.com
Sept 14, 2014

P KUBOR PAS spiritual adviser Nik Aziz Nik Mat has lashed out at the federal government for not giving oil royalty to the Kelantan state government, stressing that those responsible should use their brains because "only humans have brains".

"Think. Only humans have brains. Cows have no brains, buffaloes do not have brains. Elephants do not have brains.

"Humans must be responsible in this life and also in the afterlife," he told reporters after speaking at a surau in Pengkalan Kubor, Kelantan, today.

He said that those who do not give oil royalty to the state were "sinful" both here and in the afterlife.

"Oil royalty belongs to Kelantan. Why other states can get royalty? Sarawak can get, Sabah can get, Terengganu can get.

"Why Kelantan can't? It's a sin. (The government) must give," he said, adding that the act was both "evil" and a "betrayal".

Asked for proof that the federal government owed oil royalty money to Kelantan, Nik Aziz (left) said that the payment was not "transparent" to the state government.

"They didn't pay to the state government. They paid to others. That is not paying.

"If I owe you money, and I pay someone else, is that considered paying?" he asked.

Nik Aziz was referring to the fact that the oil royalty is being channeled back to the state in the form of wang ehsan for development and other purposes.

New arrangement

Meanwhile, Kelantan BN chairperson Mustapa Mohamed said in a separate press conference latter that the state's wang ehsan funds, where the oil royalty is channeled, is to be divided in half between the Federal Development Authority and the Kelantan Islamic Department.

He said that the new arrangement will commence from January.

"This royalty issue, this money, there had been discussions between the federal government and there is an agreement. We start next year," he said.

"We have no intention to torture anyone. A big slander is being made against us. It is something that is very saddening. But we take an open approach on this matter," he said.

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