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Advice to MPs on protocol status

PADANG RENGAS, Sun. - Members of Parliament who feel they are accorded low protocol status during official functions should seek to solve the matter through the proper channels, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Mohamed Nazri Tan Sri Abdul Aziz said.

Members of Parliament would have to refer to the respective State Governments and consult the Sultans, he said when replying to a question on the issue of low protocol status during a debate at committee level on the allocation for the Prime Minister's Department at the Dewan Rakyat last Thursday.

"When it comes to protocol, the Sultan decides in the State," Nazri, who is the Member of Parliament for Chenderoh, said when attending the official launch of the Yayasan Chenderoh, a foundation set up by Umno Chenderoh here last night.

"For example in Perak, there are four Orang Besars and the State has its own protocol," he said.

Nazri said MPs who wanted to be accorded higher protocol status should go through the proper channels.

"The Federal Government can't direct the State Governments on this matter as it involves royalty.

"Protocol comes under the jurisdiction of the palace. Because of this, it has to be referred to the Sultans and also to Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

"It cannot be done through the normal procedure as each State has its own protocol."

He added that as a Deputy Minister, he too had to follow State protocol while attending functions in Perak.

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