

Opposition asks whether Anwar's sacking is valid

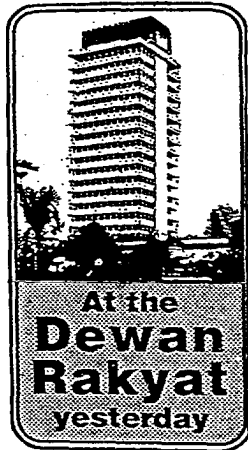
THE validity of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sacking was questioned by the Opposition yesterday during the winding-up reply by Deputy Minister's Department Datuk Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz.

DAP MPs Lim Kit Siang and Karpal Singh constantly interrupted Nazri at the beginning of his almost two-hour reply to query whether Anwar's sacking was done in accordance to the Constitution.

Both sides haggled on the terms used, with Nazri saying that it did not matter whether Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had "advised" or "informed" the King.

"The King does not have the right to reject the decision by the Prime Minister, who is elected by the rakyat," Nazri said.

Karpal Singh demanded to know whether the King was told of the matter before or after Anwar's sacking.



Reports by
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Nazri said he did not have the information.

On the judiciary, he said it had always carried out its duties independently and without pressure from any quarters.

"Any decision made is purely based on laws and

evidence without regard to positions and status of those under trial."

The political turmoil now, he said, was created by those with vested interests.

The Government, he said, always held firm to the principle of rule of law and the principle of natural justice.

Nazri also said the judiciary, the Attorney-General's office, and the Anti Corruption Agency were under the PM's Department merely for organisational purposes.

"It does not affect their independence," he said.

Nazri also said the Government did not reject hudud laws as it was part of Islamic laws.

"However, we have not implemented hudud laws because it requires studies and comprehensive analysis where all related matters must be considered," he said.

There was also a need to ensure it would not be misunderstood by non-Muslims, he added.