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Karpal Singh causes stir with portfolio poser

DAP MP for Jelutong Karpal Singh caused a stir when he rebuked Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister Datuk Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz for answering a question posed to Prime Minister. He asked whether it was appropriate and in the national interest for him to hold the portfolios of Prime Minister, Home Minister and First Finance Minister.

As Nazri stood to reply, Karpal said the question was addressed to the Prime Minister.

To this, Speaker Tun Mohamed Zahir Ismail said that Nazri as a Deputy Minister could answer the question.

Karpal replied it would be all right if this was answered by the Deputy Prime Minister but "Siapa dia?" (Who is he?), he asked of Nazri.

At the request of the Speaker, Nazri replied that there was nothing wrong for a Minister to hold more than one portfolio as long as it did not run in conflict with the administrative regulations.

He said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's holding of the First Finance Minister portfolio showed his concern for the economy and his desire to help in its recovery.

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