

02/12/1998

Show-cause letter: Nazri prepared to face court action

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Nazri Abdul Aziz said today he would not reply to the show cause letter issued by Attorney-General Tan Sri Mohtar Abdullah and is prepared to face court action.

He said it was improper for Mohtar to send him a show cause letter based solely on a newspaper report.

"There was an occasion when he disputed the accuracy of a newspaper report (The Star) because he himself was not happy with what had been reported.

"If that is the case, why is he now relying on a newspaper report to send me the show cause letter?" he asked, adding that the right cause of action would be to lodge a police report.

"The police would then have to investigate, I will be called to make a statement and once the investigation is completed, a report is filed to him.

"Only then, can he (Mohtar) decide whether I can be prosecuted or otherwise," he said at the Parliament lobby here.

Nazri was commenting on Mohtar's statement yesterday that he should show cause why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him for making a statement about the judge in Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's trial.

He said he had received a letter from Mohtar on Nov 6 and was given a week to reply.

Nazri stressed that he had duly replied to the matter when it was first raised in the Parliament by MP for Jelutong Karpal Singh.

"In addition, when MP for Kota Melaka, Lim Guan Eng asked me last July why is it that Marina Mahathir was not taken to court (for remarks made on the court case involving former Malacca Chief Minister Tan Sri Rahim Tamby Chik), the official reply which came from the A-G's chambers for me to answer in Parliament was that they do not take action based on newspaper reports.

Nazri said if the show cause letter was Mohtar's idea of showing that he was impartial, "then I think he has sent the letter for the wrong reason."

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