

Nazri: PAS to arrange for debate on SARs

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SHAH ALAM: Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said he has left it to PAS to handle arrangements for the debate on the people's religious schools (*sekolah agama rakyat*).

Nazri, who is also Chenderoh Umno chief and Entrepreneur Development Minister, said PAS would decide on the venue, time, moderator and invitation of guests for the debate between him and PAS Youth deputy chief Salahuddin Ayub on Feb 16.

"The debate is confirmed. I'll be there on Sunday with my constituency's Youth chief Shamsul Anuar Nasarah. I have asked PAS to deal with all the arrangements," he said after launching JCS Logistics Sdn Bhd's empty container haulage truck at the Glenmarie Golf & Country Club here yesterday.

"I am not asking any Umno or government supporters to

come," he said, adding that he had not set conditions for the debate except that Salahuddin must go with him to the mosque to swear on the Quran.

He also told Salahuddin not to delay now that the challenge had been accepted.

"He said he would refer the matter (of swearing on the Quran) to PAS' Dewan Ulama," said Nazri.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on Oct 25 last year said the Government would temporarily stop funding all privately-run SARs due to deviation from their original syllabus and because the students were taught to hate the Government.

Nazri said PAS had spread lies to the people by circulating leaflets in his constituency alleging that the Government planned to close down the SARs and called on the people to perform *sembahyang hajat* so that the schools would not be closed.