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Nazri-DPM

I WAS MERELY EXPRESSING MY PERSONAL VIEW - NAZRI

KUALA LUMPUR, April 8 (Bernama) -- Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz clarified today that his statement expressing support for Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to be appointed Deputy Prime Minister was not a resolution of the Chenderoh Umno division but merely his personal view.

He said he made the statement on Sunday in his capacity as the division chief.

It was not the division's stand to pass such a motion, said Nazri, who is also an Umno Supreme Council member.

"What happened was, as the division chief, I gave a speech at the opening of the delegates conference. The conference is actually a closed-door meeting and I told the delegates that there are reporters present and I cannot ask them to leave.

"I feel it's not wrong to make such a statement and I'm sticking to my stand as the division chief. It's my right to state my stand. It's not due to any pressure or demand," he told reporters at Parliament lobby.

Nazri said it was inappropriate for other Umno divisions to follow his personal opinion.

Nazri had expressed his support for Najib, who is an Umno vice-president and Defence Minister, to be elevated to party deputy president and appointed Deputy Prime Minister in October when Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi succeeds Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad as the Prime Minister in October.

He was reported to have said the division made the stand as Najib was the most qualified to replace Abdullah as the Deputy Prime Minister because he had been long in the government and had made valuable contributions for the country's development.

Hence, Najib was indeed qualified for the post, he had said.

Nazri said his personal stand was based on his close ties with Najib as a close friend.

"He (Najib) has been long in politics. He has shown total loyalty to the party. Other vice-presidents are also qualified, but since there is only one post, I see Najib as the most qualified," he said.

Nazri said he agreed with Abdullah's statement yesterday asking other Umno divisions not to come up with any motion on who should be the Deputy Prime Minister.

"I agree that Abdullah is more qualified to decide on the candidate for the No 2 post," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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