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SAR debate: Zahir gets invite to be moderator

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Dewan Rakyat speaker Tun Mohd Zahir Ismail has been invited to act as moderator for the proposed debate on Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR) or People's Religious School between Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz and Pas Youth deputy head Salehuddin Ayub.

Pas Youth secretary Misbahul Munir Masduki said today the decision was reached on Saturday between him and Nazri's private secretary, Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

A letter has been sent to Zahir inviting him to act as moderator for the debate.

"We are finalising details for the debate, which will be held at 9pm on Feb 16.

"Zahir's name was proposed by Pas in his capacity as the Islamic Education Co-ordination Advisory Board (Lepai) chairman and Umno agreed to it."

Previously, both parties had agreed to have Royal Prof Ungku Abdul Aziz as the moderator, but he had turned down the invitation.

Auditorium Angkasa in Kelana Jaya is the tentative site for the debate.

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