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Support for Najib is in my personal capacity, says Nazri

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Chenderoh Umno division head Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz reiterated that he supported Datuk Seri Najib Razak as the next Deputy Prime Minister and Umno deputy president, and Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the next Prime Minister and party president.

It was reported on Sunday that the division had declared its support for Najib as deputy to Abdullah, who takes over as Prime Minister in October.

Clarifying that his division had issued no resolution endorsing Najib as the next party deputy president and Deputy Prime Minister, Nazri said he made the statement in his capacity as division head.

Nazri, who is Entrepreneur Development Minister, said this after launching a taxi coupon system at Sunway Pyramid yesterday.

He said he had stated his leadership preferences in his opening remarks at the division's annual meeting, to which Najib had been invited, adding that no resolution had been passed by the division.

Nazri said he had done nothing wrong in expressing his opinion and said Umno, as a party based on democratic rights and freedom of speech, should not stand in the way of his voicing his support for anyone.

"Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir (Mohamad, Umno president and Prime Minister) had openly mentioned Najib (for the positions in question) on three occasions," said Nazri who is an Umno supreme council member.

"We have to allow people to voice their opinions. That is where the strength of the party is."