

Stop lying about Rosmah, says Nazri
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Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Abdul Aziz told opposition MPs today to get their facts straight and to stop slandering Rosmah Mansor, the wife of the prime minister.

The opposition, Nazri said, was being mischievous by accusing Rosmah of blaming the Japanese government of negligence and not having environment-friendly development practices, resulting in last week's earthquake and tsunami that killed thousands of people.

"Get your facts straight. This is the problem with PAS, it likes to take just one line and not look at a statement in its entirety," he said in reply to a supplementary question from Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff (PAS-Rantau Panjang) during question time in Parliament.

Earlier this week, PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin (PKR-Ampang) accused Rosmah of making such a statement, citing a Selangor TV video clip posted on CNN's iReport website where Rosmah spoke about the Japan tsunami.

In the video, Rosmah said that the tragedy should served as lesson to other countries that development should be mindful of climate change and that green technology be pursued.

Nazri also brushed aside the opposition's accusation that Rosmah was acting beyond her station in representing the country overseas at events such as the Islamic Fashion Festival (IFF) in Monte Carlo, Monaco, last year.

He accused Pakatan of politicising the issue and said the people at the festival were not even Muslims, and Rosmah therefore did not violate Islamic sensibilities.

"She (Rosmah) did not go overseas and demand that she be invited anywhere... she was invited to go to these places. If Rantau Panjang (Zailah) is not invited to give keynote addresses overseas, that is just too bad," he quipped, to thumps from backbenchers.

At a press conference in the Parliament lobby, both Zailah and Zuraida attacked Nazri for skirting the issue of Rosmah's "irresponsible" behaviour and abuse of public office.

Zuraida rejected Nazri's claim that the opposition took Rosmah's statement on the Japan tsunami out of context, saying they listened carefully to the video recording.

"He was giving flip-flop answers, which proves he is under the thumb of the prime minister and his wife," she said.

kpg semarak scrap metal dealers dbkl memo zuraidah kamaruddin 121108 04Zuraida (right) added that Nazri "has missed the forest for the trees" in defending Rosmah's involvement in the IFF, maintaining that there was nothing Islamic about it.

"Nazri said the IFF audience was made up of non-Muslims, but that's not the point. The event was about 'Islamic Fashion', but what they showed was not Islamic, with clothes that did not tutup aurat," she said.

Zailah maintained that the so-called First Lady was an embarrassment to the country and demanded that the government makes her actual role clear.

"What is the scope of the First Lady? Her (Japanese tsunami) statement was irresponsible and by making the statement as the First Lady, the country has been shamed... she speaks on issues that don't even come under her purview," Zailah said.

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