

Bumi rights to stay in New Economic Model: Nazri
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The New Economic Model (NEM) will not abolish bumiputera special rights, but will lay more stress on inter-communal cooperation, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

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"We are looking for there to be cooperation between both sides by which it is not just bumiputeras but non-bumiputeras as well who benefit," said Nazri when answering a question from Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) in the Dewan Rakyat today.

Mahfuz wanted to know whether the term 'bumiputera' was contained in the NEM and what steps would be taken to prevent problems cropping up between the ethnic communities.

Nazri said the status and rights of bumiputeras will not be set aside by the NEM. To ensure this, every action taken will be based on the constitution and the laws, he added.

"We want to show that bumiputeras and non-bumiputeras can work together for their common benefit," he said.

To a question from Billy Abit Joo (BN-Hulu Rajang) on the need to streamline the laws recognising persons as bumiputeras as applied in states such as Sarawak, Nazri said there was no need for any further streamlining.

This is because the bumiputera status had already been streamlined and categorised into three groups, as stipulated in the Federal Constitution, he said.

The three categories are Malays, "natives of Sabah and Sarawak, and Orang Asli, said the Padang Rengas MP.

Nazri also said the Federal Constitution in place clearly states the categories of persons recognised as bumiputeras, and the issue has been finalised.

- Bernama

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