

'Racist' principals suspended, transferred, says Nazri
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KUALA LUMPUR - The two school principals who were responsible for uttering racist remarks have been "suspended immediately" and actions taken were not too late, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Aziz.

"The principal from SMK Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra, Kulai, was transferred to the Johor state education department while the principal from SM Bukit Selambau, Sungai Petani was transferred to the Kuala Muda district education office," he told the Dewan Rakyat Monday, adding that both were transferred on Aug 23.

He was replying to a question from DAP MP for Bagan Lim Guan Eng on whether any action was taken against the school principals, The Star reported.

When Ipoh Timur MP Lim Kit Siang asked why action was delayed against the two, Nazri said it was "better late than never."

He said this was the first time action was being taken against a civil servant for making racist statements, "so such things will take time".

He added that for the case in Kulai, there were many witnesses as the racist remark was made in a school assembly. Therefore it would be time consuming as there'd be different versions of statements.

Furthermore, Nazri said the government need to take everything into consideration prior to making a fair decision and the principals have right to defend themselves.

"In this situation, we need to see the circumstances surrounding their statements, whether the statements were made intentionally or not. They could be angry about something when they uttered the remarks," he was quoted as saying in an online news portal.

"The investigating officers had to take down the witness statements. We needed to investigate thoroughly to build a strong case and not one that can flip-flop," Nazri said.

On the BTN, he said there was no need to dissolve the National Civics Bureau which Lim had pointed finger against for the racist remarks.

"Instead of just reviewing the courses' module, is it not better for the government to just shut down BTN, which has been acting against the 1Malaysia concept?" he was quoted as saying Monday in a news website.

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