

Nazri open to debate with Dr Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz is willing to have an open debate with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I have no problems debating with him. We did not do anything wrong. But don't say it is a challenge because it is not," the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department told reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

"We can have an open forum. I don't mind debating even if the media wants to do it but I will come representing myself and not the Government."

Nazri was commenting on Dr Mahathir's remark yesterday that he was just a hatchet man.

On Monday, Nazri called on Dr Mahathir to leave Umno saying that he had colluded with the Opposition, and for his continued criticism of the Government.

Nazri also challenged Dr Mahathir to "rebut the substance of his argument" on Monday;

"I don't care if he dismisses me or not, or calls me a hatchet man, but deny or rebut the substance that I brought out," he said.

"Rebut and say that I lied yesterday (Monday). I want to hear that. I expect more substance from a man who was the prime minister for 22 years.

"Be man enough to say that Nazri lied when he said that Tun made an unconditional promise that he would not interfere with the Government."

Recollecting the "good old days", Nazri said he was disappointed that his former boss went back on his word.