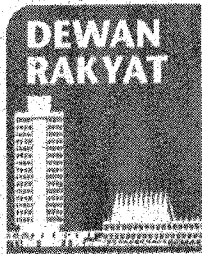


# Nazri: Lack of freedom in previous government

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THERE was lack of freedom and some dictatorial tendencies during the previous administration, said Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department.

"During the past administration, it was a bit of a dictatorship, people were not free.

"Now, when people are free to speak up, they talk about the boss (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi), and when people

talk, this is construed by some people as losing control.

"But, if you want to go back to the old ways, you can suggest it in this House, we can go along with it," Nazri said in reply to Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang, who had reiterated that Abdullah was losing control of his Government.

The original question came from Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah (BN-Gua Musang) who wanted to know whether the Official Secrets Act was hin-

dering efforts to combat corruption and abuse of power.

Nazri said that there was nothing to be concerned about as the Anti-Corruption Agency had been given full powers to investigate and view documents.

"Furthermore, those who know about acts of corruption, but believe that they are tied to the OSA, can lodge a report without signing the report.

"Under the Anti-Corruption Act 1997, the ACA can pro-

ceed with an investigation even though it is based on a poison pen letter," he said.

Nazri added that the ACA Act also provided protection for witnesses in possible corruption cases.