

# Speedy Nazri

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## UPROAR AS MINISTER RACES THROUGH WINDING-UP

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** A minister did a Speedy Gonzalez to finish reading out his 80-page winding-up speech, sparking an uproar and a brief walkout of the Dewan Rakyat by six opposition MPs.

What roused their ire was that Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz refused to entertain any interjections for clarification and was bent on racing through the text.

The reason for his haste: "There are 30 ministers who need to wind up in the remaining four days of sitting before the fasting month break.

"They (MPs) will have their opportunity (to ask questions) in November."

Nazri started by denying that there was misuse of the Tsunami Aid Fund (see Page 6).

As he was speaking abnormally fast, the DAP MPs got agitated when Nazri refused to allow interjections. They shouted and accused him of disrespect and misleading the House.

Nazri, who is the minister overseeing parliamentary affairs, irked the MPs when he uttered *kurang ajar* (ill-bred) against Karpal Singh (DAP-Bukit Gelugor) who accused him of misleading the House for providing wrong data on the Tsunami Aid Fund.

Unfazed, Nazri continued to speak and also ignored Deputy Speaker Datuk Lim Si Cheng's attempt to stop him when Karpal invoked the Standing Order to get Nazri to withdraw the words.

Before Lim could restore calm, explaining that Nazri had in fact withdrawn his statement, Nazri interjected: "It's his business if he (Karpal) is deaf."

This prompted Fong Po Kuan (DAP-Batu Gajah) to shout: "Chase him out of the House."

Opposition Leader Lim Kit Siang also objected that no one would understand Nazri if he continued speed reading.

Datuk Raja Ahmad Zainuddin Raja Omar (BN-Larut) then lent his support to the minister by saying: "If they (Opposition MPs) are stubborn. Chase them out of the House." Shouts of "Get out! Get out!" were heard from the

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# Lim: Nazri behaved in the most uncharacteristic manner

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Backbenchers. Above the din, reporters were unable to hear Nazri who continued reading his speech. At this juncture, the DAP MPs, except Fong and wheelchair-bound Karpal, walked out. They returned about five minutes later.

Karpal Singh had several times tried to stop Nazri from delivering his speech. "We have to control him

(Nazri). He has become mad (gila)," he said, sparking another round of commotion.

Lim asked Nazri how much longer he would need and Nazri replied, "It is 60 pages."

When Lim asked if he could finish it within half an hour, Nazri said: "I could finish it now." He promptly sat down.

In a statement later, Lim said: "Nazri behaved in the most unchar-

acteristic manner in refusing to entertain any clarification during his winding up speech on Budget 2007.

"He shot off his reply like a bullet train, utterly disregarding whether it is understood by MPs from both the Barisan Nasional and Opposition."

Lim said there was totally no give-and-take to allow MPs to seek clarification on his answers to many important issues, which included whether Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has "lost control" of the cabinet and government and his failure to "walk the talk" of his election pledges of reform, particularly in the areas of eradicating corruption.

Others include establishing an efficient public service delivery as having a professional world-class police service with the establishment of an Independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission.