

Salleh reveals new facts

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Salleh Abas has expressed his thanks to Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz for agreeing to a review of the 1988 Judicial Crisis should "new and important facts" emerge.

And to fulfil this condition set by the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, the former Lord President issued a five-page statement yesterday, "touching on five incidents only in general terms", which saw his dismissal and that of two other Supreme Court judges.

Among the five incidents were that he had been asked to

step down by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a meeting on May 27, 1988 after being accused of being biased in the discharge of his judicial duties.

Salleh claimed he had strongly denied the accusation and refused to resign but Dr Mahathir threatened to have him removed by instituting a tribunal under the Constitution.

During the 1988 Judicial Crisis, Salleh was sacked from his post as Lord President after a tribunal had tried him.

Another tribunal sacked Tan Sri Wan Sulaiman Pawanteh

and Datuk George Seah, two of five Supreme Court judges who had ordered a halt to the proceedings against Salleh.

Salleh claimed a "very important officer of the Government" had also paid him a visit on the same day as the meeting.

He said the officer tried to persuade him to resign by promising him a lucrative job in Jeddah as a director of an Islamic bank with "a high salary I could never have dreamed of, coupled with unlimited entertainment and travelling allowances."

Salleh said the officer, who

told him he had been authorised to pass the message to him by a "very important minister", also threatened him with dismissal and "the ignominy of having to face a tribunal" after he declined the offer.

Apart from the incidents mentioned in his statement, Salleh said there were also other incidents that would emerge if the review were held.

"I hope Nazri will present the proposal to the Cabinet for a review of the 1988 Judicial Crisis so that the truth of this important episode in our nation's history is uncovered," Salleh said.