

# Only senators, MPs can be called 'Tuan'

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*TUAN* is meant only for members of parliament, a 41-year-old government circular said.

It states that *Tuan* or *Yang Berhormat Datuk* is the official address for senators and MPs, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said in his written reply to Jimmy Donald (BN-Sri Aman).

Donald had asked why *Tuan* was used in the House for MPs who had no other honorific title and why it was not popular outside the House.

His question came a week after Datuk Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (BN-Santubong) asked why *Tuan* was used for police inspectors, while a ministry secretary-general without a datukship was referred to only as *Encik* despite his senior position.

After Wan Junaidi's question was answered, Federal CID director Datuk Christopher Wan Soo Kee said the police had never forced members of the public to address police officers as *Tuan*.

It was the public, he said, who had used the term and made it a habit.

In his reply to Donald, Nazri said the use of forms of address was adopted into the civil service, inherited from the British during their rule.

"Only in 1966 did the government lay down official rules on who should receive such forms of address."

The circular, issued in 1966 and entitled "Rules of Correspondence and Addresses for Letter-writing for the Central Government, Malaysia", sets out forms of address for spe-

cific people.

Among the named were the prime minister, deputy prime minister and those with the *Tun* honorific title.

"For example, *Yang Amat Berhormat* is reserved for the prime minister and the deputy prime minister and *Yang Amat Berbahagia* is for those who have been bestowed the title *Tun*," Nazri said.

Others named in the circular are speakers of the Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat, judges, MPs, senators and those who had received the title *Datuk*.