

Nazri agrees govt needs good PR unit

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KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz yesterday agreed with a suggestion the government needed a good public relations unit to provide correct information to the people.

He said many MPs and state assemblymen were lulled by complacency into thinking they could win general elections hands down and failed to consider what the people wanted, except for their electorates.

He admitted he himself was guilty of this.

He said this was one reason he did not follow news reported by bloggers on him or even have a personal e-mail, because "I didn't care what other people thought of me".

The suggestion for a strong public relations unit was made by Transparency International Malaysia chairman Tan Sri Ramon V. Navaratnam, who felt the people needed correct information on what was happening in the country.

Nazri said there was now a unit under the Economic Planning Unit called the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) that handles public perception.

Asked to clarify his reply to a statement about Jasin MP Datuk Mohd Syed Yusof's involvement in the "close one eye" case, Nazri said if Syed was guilty of an offence, "it would mean the entire 195 MPs are also guilty, including the prime minister."

He said all sorts of people asked MPs for help for all sorts of things, and it was difficult to turn them down.