

Govt to study CJ's proposal

The Star - 23/11/2006

Nazri waiting for memo on judiciary's plan for lower courts

KUALA LUMPUR: Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz will look into the proposal of absorbing magistrates and Sessions Court judges into the judiciary system.

Nazri, however, said he had yet to receive any memorandum on the proposal.

Chief Justice Tun Ahmad Fairuz Sheikh Abdul Halim had on Monday said that magistrates and Sessions Court judges should be taken out of the civil service and absorbed into the judiciary to make it more independent and transparent.

He said the move would prevent interference by

unseen hands.

"We are open to any idea. Let us wait for the memorandum and then we'll discuss it," Nazri said at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Meanwhile, Johor Baru MP Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad said the judiciary should first focus on improving its public image.

"Public confidence in the judiciary has waned. They should try and fix this first instead of proposing something major, which is just a diversion from the real issue," he added.

Kuala Lumpur Bar Committee chairman Lim Chee Wee said he supported the proposal to absorb magistrates

and Sessions Court judges into the judiciary.

"I'm not disputing the current judicial system, but there must be greater transparency to dismiss any doubt from the public," he said, citing the promotion of judges as an example in which procedures are to be made on a more formal basis.