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# Nazri: Give Abdullah a chance to put things right

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**PARIT BUNTAR:** A responsible leader will not falter when faced with a crisis but instead face reality and seek solutions to the challenges at hand, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz.

"To me, a leader who quits in the face of challenges is someone who has no sense of responsibility. However, Pak Lah is a very responsible person.

"He won't desert a sinking ship and tell his deputy to take over and bring things back to normal."

Nazri yesterday said Abdullah should be given a chance to put things right in Umno in the aftermath of the elections, as Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given the same chance when he faced a similar predicament.

According to Nazri, when

Barisan Nasional lost Kelantan in the 1990 elections and Kelantan and Terengganu in 1999, no one demanded that Dr Mahathir resign to take responsibility for the losses.

"In fact, we (Umno leaders and members) said the losses were our collective responsibility."

He also expressed disappointment with Dr Mahathir and a group of Umno members for openly attacking the prime minister.

"Pas, PKR and DAP are able to sit together to discuss ways to strengthen their electoral pact.

"But in the case of Umno, it seems Dr Mahathir is leading efforts to split the party. I am very disappointed with this.

"If he loves Umno, he must stop these actions that can destroy the party."

Asked about Dr Mahathir's call

to scrap Umno's quota system of candidate nominations for party elections, Nazri said it was introduced by Dr Mahathir himself after his narrow victory over Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah for the Umno president's post in 1987.

"I feel because Umno's next elections will be held in December, it would be better to stick to the existing system. We can think about it after that.

"It is unfair for Dr Mahathir to call for the system to be abolished because it was he who asked for it."

On allegations by Dr Mahathir that Abdullah was being surrounded by "yes men", Nazri said Dr Mahathir had forgotten that few dared to oppose him when he was Umno president and prime minister. — Bernama