

THE SUN

DATE: 14/9/2010

## Stop playing opposition role, Nazri tells Dr M

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MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz says Umno's expressed intention to dissociate itself from Malay rights movement Perkasa will not weaken the party as suggested by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

On the contrary, he said, Mahathir's repeated attacks on the party will weaken it, *Nanyang Siang Pau* reported yesterday.

Nazri told the daily that having retired from active politics, Mahathir, a former president of Umno, should enjoy his retirement and stop playing the opposition role by attacking the party and Barisan Nasional (BN) as doing so would only pare down BN's strength and give the Opposition the opportunity to attack it.

Mahathir had criticised the expressed intention of the Umno leaders for the party to cut ties with Perkasa, saying it would erode the party's support base as the majority of the movement's members were from Umno.

Nazri, who is a member of the Umno supreme council, said that with the Malays split into three groups - supporters of Umno, PAS or PKR - Umno and BN should make all efforts to win over the non-Malay voters if the coalition wanted to continue to receive the people's mandate. He said Mahathir, being a prime minister for many terms, should know this very well.

Nazri challenged Perkasa president Datuk Ibrahim Ali to form a political party to contest the next general election if Perkasa really wanted to defend Malay rights.