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Newspaper	The Sun
Date	22 October 2015

Nazri calls Mahathir a hypocrite

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KUALA LUMPUR: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been criticised for hypocrisy, following his latest blog post on the separation of powers and the monarchy.

Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz remarked on the irony of the situation, as Mahathir had pushed for the

that stripped members of royalty of legal immunity.

"No need to comment (in detail) about this, even a schoolboy knows that," he said

at the launch of former Balik Pulau MP Yusmadi Yusof's book yesterday.

Nazri noted that many sultans were upset with Mahathir, a fact which did not prevent him from ensuring the amendments went through.

"Better to ignore him, this man has no principles at all. We realised that he is very unprincipled when he left the government," said Nazri.

Separately, Nazri also lamented the missed opportunity of tapping into Cluna's tourism market, due to the late approval for free group visas.

"We could have taken advantage, since October is a

holiday month for the Chinese. But the approval came too late. Even then, free visas are only applicable to groups of 20 persons or more," he said.

This has affected arrivals. Nazri said: "If a family of four wants to visit Malaysia, it would need another 16 people in order to get free visas. As I see it, the approval did nothing to boost the Chinese arrivals."

In comparison, he said, Thailand saw a 100% increase - from two million to four million - in Chinese tourist arrivals after removing visa requirements.

"Nonetheless, I will raise the issue again during the Cabinet meeting on Friday," he said.