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# NAZRI PROPOSES APRIL 7 FOR DEBATE WITH DR M

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Event to be held at Karangkrif's headquarters in Shah Alam

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**D**ATUK Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz proposed April 7 for his debate with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, which was initially shelved after police disallowed the event from being held in Perak this Saturday.

The tourism and culture minister said the event organiser, Kumpulan Media Karangkrif, had agreed for the debate to be held at 9.30pm at its headquarters in Shah Alam instead.

"My only request is for (Parti Amanah Negara's) Shah Alam member of parliament Khalid Samad to become the moderator," Nazri said during a press conference at Parliament here yesterday.

He said he was made to understand that Khalid had agreed to carry out the task of moderating the public debate.

"I want a politician to be the



*Tourism and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz (second from right) at Parliament in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.*  
PIC BY MUHD ZAABA ZAKERIA

moderator, because an academician may be too academic," he said, adding that he believed Khalid would act neutrally despite his affiliation with the opposition.

He said Karangkrif would notify the police of the venue change, adding that a police permit was no longer needed as it would be held on private property and not at a public venue.

Nazri said Dr Mahathir would be notified of the latest developments.

"I hope there won't be any more obstructions by the police," he said, adding that those who attended the debate would be en-

couraged to donate to a fund to aid the Rohingya in Myanmar.

This came after Perak acting police chief Datuk Hasnan Hasnan said the police had rejected an application by Karangkrif to hold the debate at Sultan Azlan Shah Mara Junior Science College.

Hasnan listed four reasons for the rejection, including the event organiser's failure to submit a notification form 10 days before the event, which was re-

quired under Section 9 (1) of the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012.

He said the venue chosen for the debate was a school, which was prohibited under the act.

Dr Mahathir, in response, had asked Nazri to select a new time and venue for the debate, adding that the latter had until this evening to ensure the event would go on.

The debate has made headlines as it would touch on issues, such as the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance scandal, which has been linked to Dr Mahathir's administration.

Dr Mahathir, on March 10, had challenged Nazri to a debate after the latter challenged the former prime minister to contest against him for the Padang Rengas parliamentary seat.

The 91-year-old had said he had no plans to contest in the next general election and suggested a debate instead.

The Home Ministry has given the green light for the debate to be held, but the government had recently announced there would not be a live telecast of the event



*Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad*

on RTM.