

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	22 MARCH 2017

Nazri slams cops for stopping his planned debate with Dr M in Perak

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz has criticised the police for its decision to bar his proposed debate with former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad this Saturday.

He also suggested that the debate be held at the Karangkrak headquarters in Shah Alam on April 7 and be moderated by Shah Alam MP Khalid Samad from PAS.

“I was made to understand that we need to move to another place

that does not require police permission and to another date,” he said, adding that he would only be available then as he would be joining the Prime Minister’s entourage for his official visit to India.

Nazri said the reasons given by acting Perak police chief Deputy Comm Datuk Hasnan Hassan for rejecting the organiser’s application for a permit were unreasonable, as he had provided assurances that no untoward incident would occur.

“I have given assurances that nothing untoward will happen. This

is why I told Umno members not to attend the debate.”

“I’m not looking for a boxing match with him (Dr Mahathir).

“Perhaps they are afraid I will be rude, but I won’t because he was once my boss,” Nazri, who is Tourism and Culture Minister, said at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

DCP Hasnan said the police rejected the application by debate organiser Kumpulan Media Karangkrak because it did not comply with the 10-day notice requirement under the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012.

He also said that the venue chosen for the debate, Maktab Rendah Sains Mara, being a school was prohibited under the Act.

However, Nazri said the debate does not constitute a “public assembly”.

“These are not reasons to stop a dialogue. I have permission from the Mara director, I have spoken to him and a letter has been sent.

“So I don’t understand why the police are blocking my individual rights. I’m a minister, Dr Mahathir is a former prime minister; since

when have we become a police state?” he said.

However, Nazri said he was unfazed by the police’s decision and would still be at the debate venue this Saturday.

“I will be there regardless ... and I ask the organiser to pursue this matter,” he added.

In Ipoh, DCP Hasnan said the Kuala Kangsar district police had rejected on Monday the application made by Kumpulan Media Karangkrak after considering all factors.

The Star - 22/3/2017