

PM: Nazri's appointment as envoy made by previous administration

KUALA LUMPUR: The decision to appoint Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz as Malaysia's ambassador to the United States was made during the last administration, said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim clarified that he merely endorsed what was already decided, as it took as long as half a year for the US government to confirm the appointment of an ambassador.

"Sometimes there are those who get excited (about Nazri's appointment). It took six months for Malaysia to receive the confirmation on his appointment.

"The government of today now endorses the appointment as cancelling his appointment would raise other problems," he told the media after the launch of the Housewives' Social Security Scheme and MYFutureJobs Career Carnival 2023 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre yesterday.

Anwar was responding to criticisms over the Feb 9 appointment of the former Padang Rengas MP and minister as Malaysia's envoy to the US.

"It took six months for Malaysia to receive the confirmation on his appointment"

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

Anwar pointed out that he was appointed prime minister on November 24, last year, and that the US was already vetting Nazri for the position at the time.

"The confirmation process from the other side is long. I confirm that I had delayed the appointment as I had to first form a Cabinet and then inform them before going ahead with the appointment of Nazri.

"To those who have questions about this appointment, you have a right to do so, but please find the (correct) information," said Anwar.

On Feb 9, the Foreign Ministry said the King had presented letters of credence to Nazri and nine other new heads of diplomatic missions during an official ceremony at Istana Negara.

Critics pointed out that the political appointment denied career diplomats the opportunity to be promoted despite years of service.

Other politicians had previously served as Malaysia's ambassadors to the US.

They include the late former deputy prime minister Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman, the late former minister Tan Sri Jamaluddin Jarjis along with former Federal Territories minister Tan Sri Zulhasnan Rafique.