

**'First Lady' only informal
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THE term "First Lady" is an informal reference to the wife of the prime minister.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said in the local context, the term referred to the wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"It is conventional practice," he said in response to a question by Datuk Johari Abdul (PKR-Sungai Petani), who asked whether the term "First Lady of Malaysia" was meant for the wife of the prime minister or the queen.

Nazri said in the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II was not referred to as the First Lady as she was known as the Queen.

"The First Lady is the wife to the chief executive or the prime minister," he said, adding that the term was similarly used in Japan.

Nazri said the use of the term did not contradict the Federal Constitution and hoped there would be no more confusion on the matter. Last week, he had clarified in the House that no permanent or contract staff was specifically designated to the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

"As such, there are no additional costs incurred. Officers, occasionally assigned to care for the prime minister's wife, are employees of the prime minister," he had said.

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