

**Nazri: I will leave it to PM**  
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**By RAHMAH GHAZALI**

EVER READY: Minister says he would be willing to serve if his services are needed

BUKIT BERUNTUNG: MINISTER in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz said yesterday he would always be ready to serve the people if his services were needed. But the minister said he would not be disheartened if he were not chosen as a candidate.

Clarifying yesterday's report suggesting that he had decided not to contest in the next general election, the Padang Rengas member of Parliament said he would leave it to the prime minister to make a final decision on this matter.

"In our party, no one is indispensable, including myself. We need to support any winnable Barisan Nasional candidate.

"And if I, as a minister, am no longer winnable, I am prepared to give up my seat to anyone who is winnable," he said, after presenting 1Malaysia Netbook to secondary school students here.

Nazri, who has been a member of parliament for 17 years, said Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak should not be constrained in selecting the candidate for his seat based on long-time friendships.

Elaborating, Nazri said: "I think it is important for all of us (to be prepared to step aside), so that the prime minister will not be constrained by friendship or any other reasons in selecting the best brains for his cabinet.

"I think I should offer this, if he decides not to have me around, I won't be upset because I made this statement earlier."

On a different matter, Nazri described the university students who took to the streets to protest against the National Higher Education Fund and demanded for free education on Saturday as "irresponsible and immature".

He said there would be consequences to the idea of free education, such as higher income tax being imposed on the people.

"There are only three countries in the world that have free education along with Norway. But, somebody has to bear the expenses via taxes.

"That means, you are not going to pay the same amount of tax you pay now, you could be paying higher income tax like in Norway. Are you prepared for that?"

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