

**Parliament: Malaysia Has Never Been Endorsed Or Declared As Secular Country -
Mohamed Nazri
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz today stressed that Malaysia has never been endorsed or declared as a secular country.

He said according to the nation's history, Malaysia was formed based on the Islamic government of the Malay Sultanate and the Malay rulers were the heads of religion in their respective states.

The minister said Clause 1 to Article 3 of the Federal Constitution clearly stated that Islam was the religion of the Federation and the position of Islam was also assured under several other provisions.

"I cannot verify the authenticity of the statements made by our three former Prime Ministers. If I were to answer that, it will be on my own perception, not on facts.

"It is clear that Malaysia has never been endorsed or declared as a secular country. This is me answering the question in Parliament, it's not a lie and it is absolutely based on facts that I have presented," he said in reply to a supplementary question from John Fernandez (DAP-Seremban) in the Dewan Rakyat here Monday.

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