

I'm still open to debate with Mahathir, says Nazri

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This time, the minister wants to ask the former PM where he got the money to run the five general elections and whether any funds are left.

KUALA LUMPUR: Tourism and Culture Minister Nazri Aziz is still open to a debate with former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"I am fine with it, at anytime, anywhere.

"I just want to ask him about how and where he obtained funds during his time as a prime minister, that led Barisan Nasional to win five general elections," he said during a dialogue with the Umno Overseas Alumni club.

The senior minister said he wanted to ask Mahathir how much was spent on the five elections and whether there was any remaining funds.

To this, the crowd applauded Nazri's remarks.

The much anticipated Mahathir-Nazri debate was twice cancelled due to "safety reasons".

On March 8, Mahathir challenged Nazri to a debate on 1MDB, the Bumiputra Malaysia Finance (BMF) scandal and the deposit of RM2.6 billion into Prime Minister Najib Razak's bank account.

Nazri had accepted the challenge.

The debate was supposed to be held at Maktab Rendah Sains Mara (MRSM) in Kuala Kangsar on March 25 but the state police rejected the application.

It was later rescheduled to April 7 at Karangkrak Group's complex in Shah Alam, but Shah Alam police halted the debate, saying they had received protests from around the area.

Karangkrak founder and managing editor Hussamuddin Yaacob said he was bemused as police had earlier that day given approval for the debate to go on.

When asked by a participant if the debate really "threatened" the security at the location it was supposed to be held, a fiery Nazri hit back at the police saying they were the ones who stopped the debate.

“I got to know there were five police reports lodged against the debate by three people. The contents on the reports were identical.”

Nazri added those who complained were his Umno branch leader (at Padang Rengas), Umno youth member and village head.

“When I asked them why they did so, they said ‘polis suruh’ (police told them to lodge reports),” he said.

Nazri said he was baffled how the debate could affect the security of his constituency.

“This does not make sense at all. How is it possible for this debate to turn into a fight?”

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