

Tourism tax: Watch your mouth, Nazri tells Sarawak minister

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Minister says East Malaysia will be the biggest beneficiary after the tourism tax takes effect.

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno supreme council member Nazri Aziz has told Sarawak Tourism, Arts, Culture, Youth and Sports Minister Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah to watch his mouth when issuing statements against the federal government.

Nazri's warning came after the Borneo Post quoted Karim as calling the new tourism tax a glaring example of the federal government imposing tax laws in Sarawak without consultation.

Speaking to reporters during the Iftar@KL 2017 at Dataran Merdeka here today, Nazri, who is also tourism and culture minister, accused Karim of being inexperienced.

"Learn to be a minister before you open your mouth and remember that in politics you shouldn't talk so big.

"If you think you're a gangster, there are bigger gangsters than you."

He advised Karim to come and see him before issuing such statements.

"We're both Barisan Nasional ministers. You're a new minister and still wet behind the ears whereas I've been a minister for years and years. Come and see me, don't talk so much."

Nazri also said the question of taking money from Sarawak did not arise as it would be East Malaysia that benefitted from the tourism tax.

"I can count the number of five star hotels in Sarawak with one hand. The five star hotels are in Kuala Lumpur, Penang and Melaka. They're in Peninsular Malaysia."

He said 75% of the rooms being rented out are in Peninsular Malaysia with 20% in Sarawak.

"So it's Peninsular Malaysia giving Sabah and Sarawak money when there's a tourism tax.

"Also, the money will be split evenly by region (peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak), not state because if Perlis gets the same amount as Sarawak then it wouldn't be fair."

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