

# Nazri: Sufficient laws to cover sensitive talks

The Sun - 8/9/2006

At the **Dewan Rakyat**

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**MINISTER** in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohd Nazri Abdul Aziz says existing laws under the Federal Constitution are sufficient to ensure there are no misunderstandings when sensitive discussions are conducted.

However, he said the government would not hesitate to take stern action if it was found that certain quarters have broken the law and are a threat to the country's security and harmony.

He was replying to a question from **Nasaruddin Hashim (BN-Parit)** who asked what action could be taken by the government to guarantee the sanctity of the Federal Constitution following discussions of sensitive religious issues.

To a supplementary question from Nasaruddin, Nazri said: "We must remember that religion (Islam) comes under the purview of the states and the Sultans. That is the guarantee."

To another supplementary question from Opposition Leader **Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Ipoh Timur)**, Nazri said the laws would not be amended to cater to the taste of the

opposition leader.

On the interfaith issue, he said those involved in such matters should do so willingly.

"However, the Muslim community in this country feels that they do not need to be present in interfaith conferences.

"If they are not interested how can you force them ... forcé would mean going against democratic principles," Nazri said.

He said in the choice of upholding democratic principles and that of sensitive feelings in a multi-racial and multi-religious community, "it is more important to give priority to religious sentiments of the various communities in the country"

"It is easy for the DAP to speak on these, they are not in the government. We see all over the world ... in India and Sri Lanka where racial clashes due to religious differences are a reality," Nazri said.

"We should not be day-dreaming that for the sake of democracy, we can do anything. I would like to stress here that we will not compromise the sensitivity of Islam in this country," he added.