

DPM confirms Zakir's PR status

> M'sia ready to assist India in probe against Muslim preacher despite privilege granted to him

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PUTRAJAYA: Controversial Muslim preacher Dr Zakir Naik (pic) has permanent resident (PR) status in Malaysia, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

However, Ahmad Zahid said Malaysia is prepared to assist India to investigate the Islamic Research Foundation president.

"I would like to confirm that he holds a permanent residence status but he is not a Malaysian citizen. He was awarded permanent (resident) status about five years ago, before I was appointed home minister.

"If there is a request for our assistance, we are going to give full cooperation to India," Ahmad Zahid said after officiating at the Human Ecology International Conference 2017 yesterday.

On Sunday, Zakir told the Indian government to look for him in Malaysia after they expressed intent to seek Interpol assistance in a terrorism investigation against him.

Zakir accused the Indian authorities of double standards, and said he was not willing to present himself before India's National Investigation Agency (NIA), claiming that

instances of abuse were rife involving Muslim activists.

He then urged NIA to investigate him on neutral territory.

Earlier, *The Times of India* reported that NIA had asked Interpol to issue a Red Notice to curb Zakir's movements.

A Red Notice is an international arrest warrant issued by Interpol. It was issued on behalf of the Indian government after Zakir defied repeated summonses by it.

During his speech, Ahmad Zahid said future leaders must think unconventionally to transform the economic foundation, and place Malaysia in an advantageous position without succumbing to business powerhouses and greedy businessmen.

He said there was a rise of corporations that ignore national boundaries and demand a "level playing field" without respecting policies that protect a nation's interests.

"Economic warfare has given rise to unethical practices that deviate from Adam Smith's moral principles of economies that equal distribution of wealth is the basis of a social framework.

"Currency warfare and market monopolies are shrinking the money markets of most nations," Ahmad Zahid said.



Ahmad Zahid receives a souvenir from Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Prof Datin Paduka Dr Aini Ideris after he officiated at the conference in Putrajaya yesterday.

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