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Najib: I don't know how tape was made public

KUANTAN, Sat. - Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he has no idea how tape recordings of closed-door meetings among party leaders prior to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sacking from the party could have made their way to the public.

He said someone must have made copies of the recordings and made them available to the public.

He was asked to comment on the recorded discussions between party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Menteri Besar, and the Umno supreme council meeting on Sept 3 which are being sold to the public.

Najib, who is Education Minister, said he had not listened to the tapes. However, he said those who had listened to the tapes could determine the truth.

At the Dewan Rakyat on Thursday, Kubang Kerian MP Mohamad Sabu of Pas, said though it might be interesting to listen to the tapes, the trend of tapes finding their way out of closed-door meetings was "very unhealthy".

He added that he would not be surprised if similar tape recordings of important Pas meetings and decisions were now available.

When Najib was asked if any action under the Official Secrets Act could be taken against the people responsible for publicising the tape, he said the OSA applied only to Government matters.

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