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Wild accusations against PM a security threat, says Najib

KUANTAN, Sat. - The circulation of tapes containing wild accusations and threats against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and other government leaders is no longer a political issue but a matter involving national security.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Government was looking very seriously into the allegations as it could lead to misunderstanding.

"This is a matter of national security as the circulation of such materials is also an attempt to inculcate hatred among the people towards the leadership of the country.

"We have opposed such extremist thinking for so long and I am confident that the majority of Malaysians have their own stand and will not accept the contents of tapes and articles containing accusations against the Prime Minister," he said.

Najib, who is Education Minister, said this to reporters after witnessing the handing-over of the ISO 9002 certificate by Sirim to Institut Kemajuan Ikhtisas Pahang, here today.

Ikip is the first private institute of higher learning to obtain the recognition for the provision of higher education, training and education support services.

The ISO 9002 certificate was presented by Sirim's vice-president of the Standard and Quality Department, Dr Mohd Yusoff Zakaria, to Ikip's executive chairman, Datuk Md Sharif Shamsuddin.

Also present at the function were Pahang Menteri Besar Tan Sri Mohd Khalil Yaakob, Deputy Menteri Besar Datuk Hasan Arifin, Ikip's chairman Datuk Dr Abu Tahir Lela, State Local Government and Consumer Affairs Committee chairman Datuk Kan Tong Leong and Indera Mahkota State Assemblyman Ti Lian Ker, who is also in the Ikip board of directors.

Najib also expressed confidence that the public would back the Prime Minister and the Government in fighting such threats.

"I think the best solution to this is for the people to show their full support, especially in the coming general election," he said.

Khalil, meanwhile, said that listening to the tapes and reading extremist articles was tantamount to an act of "serious agitation".

"With the mass distribution of the tapes, the matter has become an issue of national security and action must be taken for such reasons," he said.

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