

PM: Discussion with Tajudin not a settlement
Malaysiakini.com
August 12, 2011

The prime minister today denied that the government is seeking an out-of-court settlement with former Malaysia Airlines (MAS) chairperson Tajudin Ramli.

Instead, Najib Abdul Razak said that the government was merely in an "off-site discussion" with the man alleged to have caused MAS billions of ringgit in losses

"It is still not time for me to comment on it because it's in the process of discussion.

"But it can't be misconstrued as a settlement out-of-court... this is a discussion to find a positive solution off-site," he said after a BN supreme council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

He elaborated that an "off-site discussion" is different from a out of court settlement as the "latter implies that a sum is involved".

Yesterday, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Nazri Abdul Aziz admitted that the government had written to several government-linked companies to "advise" them to drop legal proceedings against Tajudin.

On a separate matter, Najib, who is also Finance Minister, said that he is confident that Malaysia will hit five percent GDP growth for this year.

This is despite the downgrade in the United States credit rating from AAA to AA and the sovereign debt crisis in Europe.

"Most investors in the Malaysian manufacturing industry have markets in the US and Europe, so stunted growth there will affect us.

"But we have ensured that our domestic demand is high enough, so we are confident of achieving about five percent (GDP) growth this year," he said.

Najib was speaking after a BN supreme council meeting, where he also announced four new BN associate members.

They are the Silat Gayung Association, the Association of Television Producers Malaysia, the Malay Hawkers and Small Traders Association and the United Bajau Association Sabah.

"We are open to applications from any organisation who want to be associated with BN," he said.