

## **Suaram's Scorpene case out 'to cause chaos'**

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**By Salhan K Ahmad**

Human rights NGO Suaram is out to “cause chaos in the country” by filing a case in Paris linked to the purchase of two Scorpene submarines, said Umno secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor.

“Many things, he said, will come out with the purpose of shaming and slandering certain individuals.

“They have (nothing better to do, unlike people like) us, (who) work 24 hours,” he told a press conference today.

Adnan, who is Putrajaya MP, was asked to comment on Suaram’s submission of names as witnesses for the legal proceedings in Paris.

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak and Defence Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi are among those on the list.

Najib had over the weekend brushed aside questions as to whether he will testify at the proceedings.

This resulted in criticism that Najib’s non-committal replies would be detrimental to the Malaysian government.

Puchong MP Gobind Singh Deo (right), who is also DAP legal bureau chairperson, said Najib’s reluctance to testify in a court case in Paris in the ongoing investigation into a submarine deal reflects badly on Malaysia.

“It reflects poorly on the PM, who has promised reforms and committed himself towards fighting corruption,” Gobind said in an email last night.

Last Thursday, the Paris Tribunal de Grande Instance accepted a list of witnesses which Suaram proposed in a case against the French-owned defence company DCNS over illegal commission payments to Malaysian officials.

In an unrelated development, Tengku Adnan admonished the Pakatan Rakyat opposition for inviting a group of foreign electoral observers for the highly anticipated 13th general election.

“It is a preemptive ploy by the opposition to discredit Malaysia’s electoral process and the result of the coming general election,” he was quoted as saying by The Star.

Tengku Adnan said the 12 foreign observers are here following a request by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

“Inviting foreign poll observers is a task placed on the Election Commission and not any political party. However, I am willing to meet the group to listen to what they have to say,” he said.



