No suspicions about safety of Lynas plant, says Najib
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By Nigel Aw

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today said that there were no suspicions about the safety of the RM700 million Lynas Advanced Materials Plant (Lamp) in Gebeng, Kuantan based on scientific facts following the release of the parliamentary select committee (PSC) on Lamp's report which was passed by Parliament on Tuesday.

"Based on scientific facts, nothing that has been raised has led to suspicions about safety issues towards the local residents or any effects on the environment," he told a press conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting at its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur this evening.

Najib (speaking at microphone) added that while the government will take into consideration residents' safety in making a decision on whether the plant should commence operations, it must be done based on scientific facts.

"We give priority to the safety of the people but our considerations must be based on scientific facts and not questions of mere worry or imaginary fear or assumptions that are not rooted in scientific facts," he said.

He added that even PAS' Hulu Langat MP Che Rosli Che Mat had "stated clearly that Lynas was safe", breaking ranks with his party.

Though Che Rosli had insisted that radiation wise the plant was safe, the nuclear scientist had called for other health aspects of the plant to be scrutinised by other experts.

The temporary operating licence for Lynas was approved in February. However it has yet to be issued following fierce opposition against the rare earth processing plant which led to the creation of the PSC and its subsequent report.

On a separate matter, Najib said the facts over claims that Singaporeans were involved in the April 28 protest by electoral reform group Bersih 3.0 should first be clarified.

"We should first determine the veracity of the claim and see whether they were there as observers or participants," he said.

According to The Star, Singapore High Commissioner Ong Keng Yong had clarified that its officials were at the protest but had not gone as supporters and were not on official duty.

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