

MAS will not be privatised, Najib decides

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has put his foot down over calls for national air carrier Malaysia Airlines (MAS) to be privatised.

"It is clear that MAS will not be privatised. It is already a listed company owned by Khanazah and is of public interest," Najib told a press conference in Putrajaya today.

Yesterday, former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government should sell its stake in the ailing national carrier.

Elaborating on the matter, Najib said the national carrier was already on a path to recovery.

"Even though it is loss-making, its recovery plan is already bearing fruit and the trend is MAS' losses are getting less.

"With this encouraging trend, we will continue to observe MAS so that it will improve with a stronger financial position," Najib said.

He added that MAS's recovery was ongoing and overnight results could not be expected.

Furthermore, he added, MAS was not alone in its problems.

"The problem is not exclusive to MAS as all other airlines in the world are also facing competition," he said.

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