

Najib: Yes, dad was a frugal man
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has described his father - second prime minister Abdul Razak Hussein - as a principled and frugal person, in a statement to Utusan Malaysia and Berita Harian today.

The statement is an apparent response to a joint statement issued by his four brothers six days ago, expressing disapproval of talk on the family's inheritance from Abdul Razak.

Najib said his father had never been implicated of graft or abuse of power when in power and had always put the country's interests first.

"When he entered politics, Abdul Razak is known as an administrator who lives moderately and frugally," said Najib.

On Feb 24, the joint statement by Johari, Nizam, Nazim and Nazir had stated the brothers' concern on news reports regarding inheritance from their father.

The inheritance talk surfaced after a New York Times article quoted the Prime Minister's Office stating that Najib's lifestyle was not unusual for "a person of the prime minister's position, responsibilities and legacy (of) family assets" and that the source of his wealth was the result of a "received inheritance".

Last week, the New York Times wrote a three-page article profiling Jho Low, his purchase of high-end properties in New York and his links to Najib and his spouse Rosmah Mansor.

Among others, the article noted Rosmah's purported appetite for luxury, prompting the newspaper to seek clarification on the source of Najib's wealth.

Strangely, the joint statement by the four brothers was not published by mainstream newspapers which received it.