

Wedding cards for PM's daughter being distributed

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Amidst mounting pressure due to a raft of controversies and flagging popularity, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will still have something to smile about later this month.

Sources confirmed that his daughter Nooryana Najwa will wed her Kazakh beau Daniyar Kesikbayev on March 28 and 29.

"Two separate invitation cards for the wedding ceremonies are being distributed," revealed one of them.

Malaysiakini sighted one of the invitations, which stated that a ceremony would be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, which houses the Umno headquarters, between noon and 4pm on March 29 for party leaders and members.

A day before that, sources said, another ceremony would be held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), which is expected to be attended by government leaders, business captains and other VIPs.

The wedding invitation card for this event is contained in an opulent box with gold trimmings.

Speculation rife

Speculation on the wedding has been making rounds on the internet over the past week after an image of the wedding card appeared on the social media.

The Prime Minister's Office, however, has been silent on the matter.

In an email communique to Malaysiakini, a New York-based spokesperson for Daniyar's mother Maira Kesikbayev, declined to confirm or deny the wedding.

"We have no comments at this time," said the spokesperson.

Nooryana, 26, and Daniyar, 27, reportedly met in the United States, where the couple pursued their tertiary education.

Meanwhile, observers said Najib would court more trouble if the ceremonies are extravagant given the current circumstances.

Previously, the couple's expensive engagement bash in 2011 fell under the crosshairs of the opposition, prompting the PMO to refute claims that public funds were used.

Who foots the bill?

PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli had then claimed to have receipts to show how RM409,767, which was the cost to hold a luxurious dinner event at a five-star hotel in central Kuala Lumpur, was billed to the PMO.

The bill showed that RM18,792 was spent for 36 VIPs and RM309,975 for 862 attendees while handling cost amounted to RM81,000.

Among other things, Najib's wealth has become a major focal point of late after the PMO attributed his and his family's opulent lifestyle to inheritance in response to a report in the New York Times.

His four brothers latter issued a joint statement expressing concern that the issue could taint their late father's reputation, whom they described as a frugal man.

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