

Key issues raised by Dr M not addressed

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Earlier this evening, there was mounting speculation that Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak would be addressing issues raised by former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

However, the hour-long programme conducted by Umno-linked TV3 was an anti-climax because the premier chose to avoid key issues raised by Mahathir.

While he addressed the allegations concerning 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), he however made no mention of his ties with hard partying business tycoon Low Taek Jho.

He also did not touch on the issue of his family's fortune which prompted his siblings to issue a statement that expressed concern about their father's reputation being tainted.

The statement was a result of the Prime Minister's Office attributing Najib's wealth and his family's lavish expenditure to inheritance.

Similarly, Najib did not broach the main issues concerning the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu, which are the motive or if anyone had ordered the killing.

The premier merely reiterated his innocence and that he did not know the Mongolian national.

Critics unlikely to be satisfied

However, the crux of Mahathir's recent arguments on the case was the absence of a motive and that fugitive police commando Sirul Azhar Umar should not be sentenced to death for "following orders".

Neither did Najib address the issue of Putrajaya's decision to purchase an Airbus ACJ320.

Mahathir said that Najib had been silent on these issues for far too long and predicted that Umno and BN will be defeated during the next general election unless the latter steps down as premier.

Several key BN leaders including Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin, BN backbenchers head Shahrir Samad and former Umno deputy president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah have urge Najib to answer these lingering allegations.

However, the vast majority of Umno leaders have said that the premier should be given time to reply and expressed their support for him.

Since this televised interview failed to shed light on Mahathir's allegations, it is expected that pressure will continue to pour on Najib for answers.

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