

Clean up your act, Cameron tells Najib
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British Prime Minister David Cameron has urged his Malaysian counterpart Najib Abdul Razak to clean up his government, British newspaper The Telegraph reported.

The UK daily's headline on yesterday's meeting between the two leaders in Putrajaya reads, 'David Cameron challenges Malaysian PM Najib Razak on corruption'.

According to the report, Cameron confronted Najib over the "deepening corruption scandal that threatens to bring down his government."

The Telegraph added allegations of US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) of 1MDB-linked funds ending up in the personal bank accounts of Najib overshadowed Cameron's visit to build trade ties with Malaysia.

"During a long, one-to-one meeting, Cameron on Thursday urged Najib to clean up his government.

"In a pointed move, he then met with civil society leaders, including journalists, the G25 group of campaigners and lawyers, who are campaigning for greater democracy and a free press," reads the article.

Cameron reportedly also challenged Najib over the treatment of former opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, who is serving a five-year prison sentence.

The daily also reported that the British prime minister's national security adviser, Kim Darroch, met with Anwar's daughter Nurul Izzah Anwar.

"They discussed building a free press and her father's treatment," said The Telegraph.

According to the article, Cameron, who faced demands from some opposition figures to cancel the visit, said, "It is right to go ahead with the visit, but nothing should be off the table. We should talk about these issues including the specific ones now."

"We always have discussions with civil society figures, anti-corruption campaigners, opposition leaders and all the rest and that will happen on this visit too.

"I don't think it helps not travelling to a country and turning away. It is better to go and talk about these things," Cameron added.

UK officials, according to The Telegraph, stressed the visit was to build relationships between peoples, not leaders.

Cameron repeats call

After the one-to-one meeting with Najib, the report said Cameron is understood to have repeated his message to a wider gathering of Malaysian government figures in front of the PM.

On July 3, The Wall Street Journal quoted information from Malaysian investigators that RM2.6 billion was allegedly deposited into the Najib's personal bank accounts just ahead of the last general election, leading to speculation that the money was used for the campaign.

Najib responded to the report claiming he has never used public funds for personal gain, but has remained tightlipped on whether the allegation of the fund transfer was true.

On Wednesday, a video surfaced in which former deputy prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin claimed that Najib had admitted the money had gone into his personal accounts.

Najib removed Muhyiddin from his cabinet on Tuesday, some 48 hours after the latter made a hard-hitting speech on the 1MDB imbroglio.

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