

Najib plans 'heart to heart' talk with Taib
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said he will have a "heart to heart" discussion with Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud on the future of the state's leadership.

He said Abdul Taib's party will continue to be the pillar of the BN in Sarawak, and it is only fair to discuss with them first before any decision is made on the state's leadership.

"Whatever decision that will be made will be based on the spirit of loyalty and friendship," he said in a brief press conference after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting today.

Najib was commenting on news reports that Abdul Taib was mulling retirement after helming Sarawak for 29 years.

On claims by Pakatan Rakyat that Umno was responsible for the on-going spat between DAP and PAS over the latter's intentions to implement hudud law.

Pakatan leaders had blamed the government-controlled mainstream media of blowing the matter out of proportion to hide the government's wrongdoings, such as the RM52 billion bumiputra share scandal.

Najib said Umno have no idea what was going on between the two opposition partners, aside from the obvious cracks in the Pakatan.

"What we can see is the clash of positions on such a fundamental issue. It shows that their coalition is fragile... I don't see how they can be honest with each other if they are so opposed on such an important issue," he said.

No selective prosecution

On the charge brought against three teenagers for vandalising a surau in Negeri Sembilan, Najib said that the government does not practice selective prosecution when it comes to racial or religious matters and will follow the law to the letter.

"We do not want anyone to twist this issue, as if we practice selective prosecution," he said.

When asked to comment on Utusan Malaysia's report attacking DAP's Serdang MP Teo Nie Ching for speaking at a surau, Najib said he will leave it to the religious authorities to deal with the matter.

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