

Najib: No abuse of power in SMS, will explain chopper deal
Malaysiakini.com
Oct 14, 2008
Beh Lih Yi

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak today said that there was no abuse of power on his part in his exchange of text-messages with lawyer Muhammad Shafee Abdullah in relation to the Altantuya Shaariibuu murder case.

"Why do I need to comment? Nothing. There is no abuse of power. It doesn't really matter.

"The important thing is that there is no abuse of power, whatever it is, the prime minister (Abdullah Ahmad Badawi) has said enough," he told reporters in Parliament today.

najib parliament 141008 Pressed by reporters, the deputy premier did not confirm or deny if he had sent the text-messages and whether he was trying to help his close ally, political analyst Abdul Razak Baginda who has been charged with abetting the murder.

"Why should it be a major concern? The important thing that is of public concern is the (allegation of abuse of power). If you read it (the messages) very carefully, there is no abuse of power. Period."

Najib was responding to a report in Malaysia Today which published the alleged exchange of SMSes between him and Muhammad Shafee over the alleged involvement of Abdul Razak in the case.

Yesterday, Abdullah said he did not believe that his deputy would abuse his power.

Earlier today, Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim had urged the government to probe Najib for alleged abuse of power, stating that the latest development would affect the government's credibility.

'No need for us to panic'

On another controversy, Najib said he would soon explain in detail in the Dewan Rakyat regarding the questions raised over a contract to procure new helicopters for the armed forces which was secured during his tenure as defence minister.

Apart from this, the newly-minted finance minister rejected the opposition's call for a fresh budget that addressed the current economic crisis although he acknowledged that some changes would be made in line with the latest situation.

He expressed confidence that the economic growth - projected at 5.7 percent for this year - would be maintained.

"Next year probably we have to tweak a bit the (projected) growth and some of the figures may have to be revised, but it does not necessitate the re-tabling of a new budget," said Najib.

In relation to that, the finance minister would announce additional economic measures next Monday to manage the current crisis.

"The government would always monitor the situation and several latest measures in the form of a stabilisation plan is being finalised, which I will announce next Monday to outline the new measures to be taken by the government," he said.

He said the plan was discussed at the national economic council exco meeting chaired by Abdullah yesterday.

"I would like to assuage the public that the government is on top of the situation. Although the situation is serious, there is no need for us to panic.

"We are not as bad as other countries, but certainly it would impact negatively on our economy," stressed Najib.

On the Barisan Nasional's decision to withdraw its election petition to challenge PKR's Kulim-Bandar Baru parliamentary seat, he merely said: "It's for the good of the party and the country."

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.
Source : <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/91257>