

Teoh Beng Hock's Family Pressures Najib for Royal Commission
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Shah Alam - The open verdict delivered by the coroner at the inquest into the death of DAP aide, Teoh Beng Hock have raised more questions than answers. The family of the late Teoh now moves to pressure Prime Minister Najib Razak to fulfil his promise to set up a Royal Commission to get to the bottom of the matter.

Teoh's sister Lee Lan who was reported to be in tears after the verdict was announced, said, "we need support. We cannot accept the open verdict, we cannot accept not knowing how he died.

It was claimed that Najib had assured Teoh's family that a royal commission to be formed if the inquest does not have the answers.

Yesterday, coroner Azmil Mustapha delivered a verdict that did not conclusively determine the cause of death by ruling out both suicide and murder.

Teoh was found dead on the fifth floor of Plaza Masalam where MACC's office is located in July 2009 after undergoing interrogation as a witness on the fourteenth floor. He was scheduled to get married to her then pregnant fiancé the following day.

Inquests or death inquiries are conducted by magistrates sitting as coroners to determine cases of deaths that have occurred in suspicious or unnatural circumstances. By contrast, royal commissions are government public inquiry into issues of great public interest and is chaired by one or more notable figures, including former high ranking government officials and retired senior judges.

Although royal commissions are quasi judicial and their findings are published after being submitted to the King, their recommendations are despite their influence, sometimes ignored. Notable royal commissions held in Malaysia include the Royal Commission for Police Reform set up shortly after Pak Lah assumed power, and the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Lingam video clips⁶