

**Boycott Of Commission Of Inquiry A Political Stunt Says Najib**  
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak today described as a political stunt the move to boycott the hearing of the Commission of Inquiry into the death of Selangor political aide Teoh Beng Hock.

He said it was a ploy by the opposition to use the matter as an issue in the next general election.

The move was aimed at delaying the work of the commission and to make it seem like the government was not doing anything to find out the cause of death of Teoh, he said.

"It has been politicised. They want to find ways to delay the case. The aim is to make the case an issue in the next general election.

"It was for this reason that the opposition advised the family of Teoh (to withdraw from the inquiry)," he told reporters after opening a convention of religious teachers at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

Yesterday, the Selangor government withdrew from the hearing, with its counsel Malik Imtiaz Sarwar saying the action by the commission to continue proceedings in the face of pending proceedings at the Shah Alam High Court was of concern and that there were inconsistencies by the attorney-general in having his staff serve as conducting officers while also trying to revise the verdict of the completed inquest into Teoh's death.

A day earlier, counsel Karpal Singh announced the withdrawal of Teoh's family from the hearing, shortly after commission chairman James Foong Cheng Yuen had ruled that the commission would continue with its proceedings without waiting for the High Court's decision on an application for a judicial review to be filed by Teoh's family to have the three conducting officers from the attorney-general's chambers assisting the commission dropped and replaced by independent members.

Najib said they should give the commission the opportunity to discharge its duty in establishing the truth over the death of Teoh.

The commission was the best channel, established on Jan 26 in the name of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, and must complete its work based on the terms made in the name of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, he said.

He also said that the people selected to sit on the commission were those of standing who could help to establish the truth.

"We set up the commission at the request of the family (of Teoh) and for the purpose of establishing the truth. There must be a closure to the case," he said.

(Bernama)

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