

**Raja Petra Denies Implicating Najib, Rosmah In Altantuya Murder**  
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KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Today founder and editor, Raja Petra Kamaruddin, has revealed that his statutory declaration (SD) linking Najib Tun Razak with the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu was made based on information and demand by several individuals aimed at preventing Najib from becoming prime minister.

He said he had never accused the prime minister or his wife Rosmah Mansor of being involved in the murder of the Mongolian woman and that he no longer believed the story of these individuals.

He added that these individuals were connected to several politicians including Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) advisor Anwar Ibrahim and that they had put pressure on him to do what he did to prevent Najib from taking over from Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who was relinquishing the post.

"I no longer accept the story. I think it's quite impossible. It can't be that the prime minister's wife would want to go to such place; it's a jungle. I'm imagining, climbing up the hill, going into the jungle at night, at 12 midnight, I think it's quite impossible," he said in an exclusive interview with TV3 Group Editor Ashraf Abdullah in Perth, Australia, recently.

The interview was aired through TV3's primetime news, Buletin Utama, last night.

Raja Petra said in the SD he made on June 18, 2008, he had stated that he received information from several individuals claiming that Rosmah was at the scene where Altantuya was murdered.

"In my SD, I said that these people had told (me) and for these people to come forward and tell their stories, and for the authority to investigate and call these people.

"That is what I've written in the SD. I've never raised any accusation. I didn't say I knew that the prime minister's wife was at the scene at that time," he said.

He said: "I did not say. I did not make such accusation. All I said was that there were people telling stories but it's up to the authorities to investigate the matter further, and for these people to come forward.

"And I've mentioned the names of these people. I mentioned their names during the police investigation," he said, identifying the individuals as Nik Azmi Nik Daud, John Pang and blogger Din Merican.

He said a military intelligence officer known as Colonel Azmi Zainal Abidin had also given similar information.

He said in his meeting with Nik Azmi, he had asked him why he was being pressured to make the SD and that he had asked him "What do you hope to achieve?"

Raja Petra said: "He said Pak Lah will relinquish his post, (and) if we don't block Najib, (he) will become the prime minister to succeed Pak Lah."

Raja Petra said he then asked Din Merican to obtain the confirmation from Anwar.

"Din Merican contacted me back (and told me) he had spoken to Anwar and that Anwar had given the green light. He said it's okay, no problem with this man, we can trust what he said; Anwar knows him well and he used to see Anwar often ... this Lieutenant Colonel, and that he had also spoken to Anwar on this issue.

"He told me to proceed. So I proceeded," he said.

Raja Petra said these individuals promised to become a witness if he was charged in court.

The second part of the interview will be aired on TV3's Buletin Utama tonight.

(Bernama)

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