

- Calls for action against those responsible

NAKED ANGER OVER LOCKUP ABUSE

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- PM and DPM pledge there will be no cover-up

There should be no cover-up at all. I don't want anybody to hide the bare facts obtained from the investigations.'

Abdullah

We do not indulge in that... There is no reason to embarrass and humiliate people in that manner.'

Najib

■ By Zubaidah Abu Bakar
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Malaysians today expressed outrage over the alleged police mistreatment of a woman from China who was forced to strip and do ear-squats, demanding that those responsible be made to pay.

Leading the charge were Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and his deputy Datuk Seri Najib Razak who pledged there would be no cover-up as there was absolutely no reason to embarrass and humiliate people in that manner.

Several non-governmental organisations also expressed indignation, saying the incident smacked of torture (See Page 6).

Speaking to Malaysian reporters in Valetta, Malta, where he is attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting, Abdullah asked the police not to "hide" any

Prime Minister expresses dismay

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facts in the probe of the alleged mistreatment as featured in a video clip that was shown by Opposition MP Theresa Kok to several MPs at the lobby of Parliament House yesterday.

The Prime Minister said he had told Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Musa Hassan that the incident must be investigated thoroughly and immediately.

Abdullah spoke in a serious tone at the Press conference, reflecting his utter disappointment over the incident.

"There should be no cover-up at all. I don't want anybody to hide the bare facts obtained from the investigations," said Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister.

In an immediate response, Musa said investigations into the matter would be swift and possibly wrapped up by Monday.

Najib said the Government had to act firmly and expeditiously to restore public confidence in the police.

Asked whether strip search was part of standard police investigation procedures, Na-

jib said: "We do not indulge in that... There is no reason to embarrass and humiliate people in that manner," he told reporters after opening the 32nd annual general meeting of the National Farmers' Organisation.

Besides investigations and stern action, Najib said measures must be taken to restore public confidence in the police force and confidence of those who were visiting Malaysia following the incident.

Najib also explained that Home Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid's visit to China next week was to reassure the Chinese Government that Malaysia always welcomed Chinese tourists.

Azmi is expected to explain to the Chinese authorities that Malaysia had no intention to cause hardship to Chinese tourists coming to the country.

He will be there for at least a week and visit three cities. The details of his itinerary and whom he will meet are being finalised.

"We will apologise when we are wrong. There is no harm in admitting our mistakes," Najib said.

If we find that any of our personnel had abused their powers, we will take stern action... if you break the law, we will act.'



Deputy IGP
Datuk Seri Musa Hassan

There will be a lot of publicity when it happens and in the days that follow but then the heat will die down, and everyone will forget.'

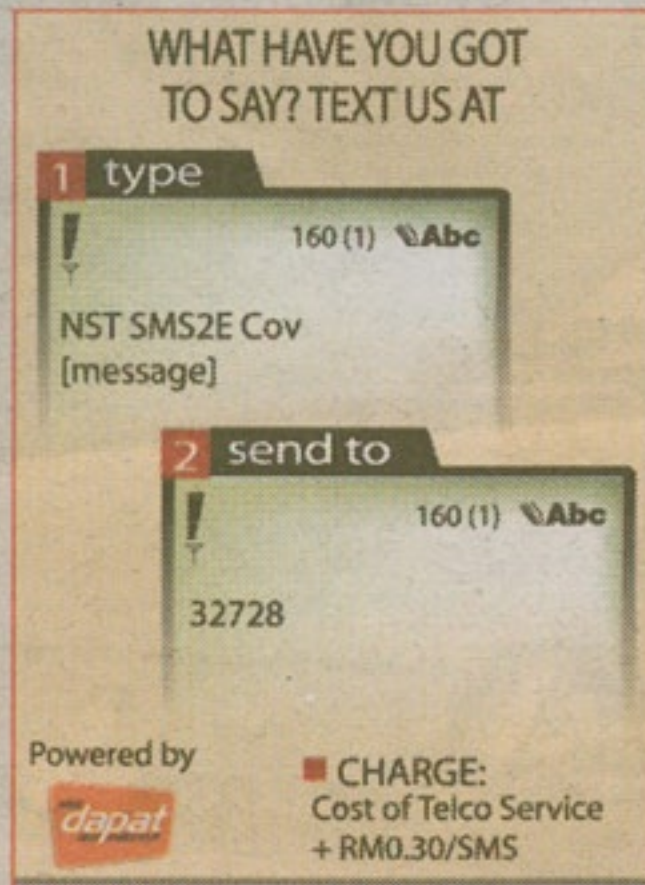


Women's Aid
Organisation president
Meera Samanther

The model suggested by the Royal Police Commission in the form of an independent Police Complaints and Misconduct Commission must now take shape.'



Bar Council chairman
Yeo Yang Poh



Enforcement officers should not abuse their powers. There is a limit to their authority.'

Malaysia AIDS Council
executive director
Nik Fahmee Nik Husin

There is the mistaken belief that squatting exercises expel hidden objects from the vagina.'



Women's Aid Organisation
executive director
Ivy Josiah