

Najib: Govt wants end to repairs issue

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PUTRAJAYA: The Government wants to put an end to the controversy involving Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat and funds spent on repairs on a Chinese school in Johor.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had this to say yesterday:

"We do not want to prolong the matter any more."

He was asked whether the reprimand against Ong would be retracted by the Cabinet now that the misuse of funds for the school was found to be true.

The Cabinet reprimanded Ong when he made the allegations as it ruled that one minister could not comment on another ministry's responsibility.

Ong put himself on the spot with Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein when he was reported to have said that while repairs to SJK (C) Kung Yu amounted to only RM3,000, about RM30,000 was paid out.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, who visited the school recently, had said that work carried out amounted to only RM3,000 to RM4,000 but RM29,500 was paid to the contractors.

Najib was speaking to reporters after accepting a giant board with 150,000 signatures and wishes by members of the public and foreigners. The board had been placed at the Kuala Lumpur Sentral monorail station by a local newspaper.

On the plan to have the Tun Abdul Razak Rubber Research Centre in Brickendonbury, Herfordshire, used for sporting activities, the Deputy Prime Minister said a lot of fine-tuning was needed, such as a study on "needs and demands" and getting feedback and suggestions from various sports associations, before a final decision was made.

"We need to look at the physical layout and the changes (that have to be made) and then make a final decision," he said.