

'I've nothing to do with Altantuya'

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BATANG BERJUNTAI: Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday forcefully denied any connection with the murder of Altantuya Shaariibuu, a frequent allegation by the opposition as the Ijok by-election campaign gathers pace.

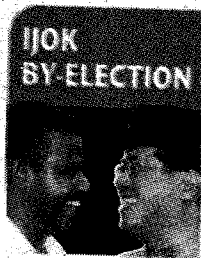
"It has nothing to do with me. It is not connected to me at all," he said in a speech to open a new school building at SRK (T) Bestari Jaya here.

"What has Altantuya or Mongolia have to do with the people here? They (the opposition) are bankrupt of ideas. That's why they keep bringing it up."

Najib has previously said that he was not afraid of the opposition using the Altantuya case as an issue in Parti Keadilan Rakyat's attempt to wrest the Selangor state seat from Barisan Nasional.

Mongolian Altantuya, 28, was murdered and her body blown up with explosives in Puncak Alam, Shah Alam, last October.

Two policemen from an elite unit have been charged with her murder while political analyst Abdul Razak Baginda, who was linked to the deputy prime minis-



ter, has been charged with abetting them.

Najib has said that the attorney-general, the prime minister and the police knew the truth about the case and he would answer all accusations against him to the extent permissible under the law.

In his speech here yesterday, the BN deputy chairman described BN candidate K. Parthiban as a role model who had sacrificed for his family.

Parthiban, who is the Tanjung Karang MIC secretary, was the family breadwinner after his parents died.

"I now know that he is a very normal and very good person. His story is a very lovely story and maybe one day someone can

make a movie of it," he said, drawing laughter from the 1,500 crowd attending the event.

Earlier in Kota Kinabalu, Najib said the ruling coalition would not fall into the trap of adopting a defensive posture.

"We need to use our wisdom in employing the right strategy. What is important in Ijok is for us to win the support and trust of the people," he said.

On the by-election being compared with the Lunas by-election in Kedah six years ago, Najib said the situation was different.

"I have been to Ijok and I know that there is no similarity with Lunas."

In Kuantan, Deputy Internal Security Minister Datuk Fu Ah Kiow warned that public references to ongoing court cases were liable for contempt.

"It has been the opposition's tactic in all their election campaigns to conduct provocative ceramah," he said.

"We should not be easily provoked and the authorities will take action against those who take the law into their own hands."