

I have confidence in Najib, says PM

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Young Inventors : Abdullah looking at an invention by students from Sekolah Menengah Sains Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra Pengkalan Chepa, Kelantan, called Iron Saviour, yesterday. The energy-saving iron won them the Young Inventors Award.

Pak Lah: Allegations against him are baseless

KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister says he has full confidence in Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak as his deputy and that the allegations hurled against his No.2 are baseless.

"Najib has nothing to do with what has been made up (by the Opposition) as accusations against him.

"I am confident with him as my deputy and I am satisfied with most of the work that he has done," said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

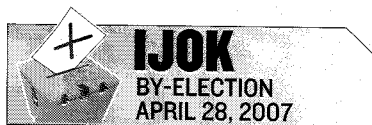
He said Najib was in Ijok in his capacity as the Barisan Nasional deputy chairman and regretted the personal attacks on his No.2.

The Opposition, he said, should not try to smear someone's character as a way to win votes.

"Personal attacks to get votes is not a good strategy," he added.

Barisan's K. Parthiban faces Parti Keadilan Rakyat's (PKR) Tan Sri Khalid Ibrahim for the Ijok seat.

In the heated campaign, the



Opposition tried to cast aspersions on the Deputy Prime Minister, alleging links to the gruesome murder of Mongolian part-time model Altantuya Shaariibuu in Malaysia last year.

She was the lover of Najib's aide, Razak Baginda, who has been charged with abetting in the murder.

During the Ijok campaign, Najib denied any involvement in the Altantuya case and said that he (Najib) had nothing to fear because he had nothing to hide.

The Opposition also claimed that commissions were paid for the Sukhoi SU30MKM fighter aircraft and Scorpene submarine deal.

However, on Thursday, the Defence Ministry released a statement saying that no commission had been

paid for the purchase of the aircraft and submarines.

On Thursday, Najib claimed that PKR candidate Khalid, who was the former Guthrie chief executive officer, was angry with the Government because he had failed to acquire a 20% stake in the plantation giant.

He said he had proof that Khalid, who already owned 6.5% of the equity, wanted to hog another 13.5% which was meant for the people.

However, Khalid also denied this and said that he would sue the Deputy Prime Minister.

Abdullah, when asked about the matter, said that it was up to the PKR treasurer if he wanted to take action.

"But I'm sure Datuk Najib has very strong basis for the statement made," he added.

To a question, Abdullah said it was unfortunate that the focus on the Ijok by-election was on personal attacks rather than issues.