

Govt has no choice but to fix roof immediately, says Najib

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has no choice but to repair the roof of Parliament building immediately because it houses a very important institution in the country, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

The Deputy Prime Minister added that the Public Works Department (PWD) would also be asked to explain how and why the leak occurred.

In expressing his regret over the water leakages in the building, Najib said the repairs should have been included in the original renovation budget.

He said that when the allocation report for the major facelift work for the Parliament building was submitted to the Government earlier, no request was made to carry out roof repair work at that time.

"We are wondering how that had escaped our consideration. The Cabinet will discuss this," he told reporters after presenting degrees and diplomas to 320 graduands of Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (Unitar) here yesterday.

Najib said the Cabinet would also decide whether the repairs should be borne by either the Government or Parliament.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, after inspecting the rooftop on Thursday, said its condition was severe and the whole structure needed to be rebuilt.

Samy Vellu added that repairs would include installation of waterproofing and concealed ceiling equipment for heat protection.

On Friday, Public Accounts Committee

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DATUK SERI NAJIB TUN RAZAK

chairman Datuk Shahrir Abdul Samad questioned the failure of the relevant authorities such as the PWD to include waterproofing equipment in the Parliament roof.

He said the Parliament Department should be accountable.

Transparency International Malaysia has called for a public inquiry by a parliamentary select committee or an independent commission to look into the leakages.

President Tan Sri Ramon V. Navaratnam said it was "a real shame" that the Government had spent so much money (about RM90mil) in the renovation but the ceiling was not rainproof.

"Taxpayers deserve a full explanation on how and why such things happened.

"The contractors must be penalised, otherwise the same thing will happen again."