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# Let the court decide on Khir's case, says Najib

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PUTRAJAYA: The only reason why anyone would suggest that Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo's case is staged is because they want to turn it into a political issue, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said.

"They hope that when this becomes a political issue, the government will be seen to be not serious or is covering up or is selectively prosecuting and so on."

Najib dismissed claims that the government was "cleaning up its image" ahead of the general election.

He said the charge against Dr Khir, the Sungai Panjang assemblyman,

was brought about by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's investigations into the case, which were forwarded to the Attorney General's Chambers.

"What sideshow is it if he has been charged in court? This is not a game ... the MACC, as an independent body, had submitted their findings to the A-G's Chambers, which also independently decided on the next course of action.

"This matter is going according to the process and we should let the court decide as we are not in the position to say who is guilty or not," he said at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre after witnessing representatives of the Malaysian

business community sign a pledge to fight corruption.

Najib was asked to comment on opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's statement that the decision to charge Dr Khir was just a sideshow by Umno to portray a clean image before the general election.

Asked if he saw an urgency for Selangor to have a new opposition leader after Dr Khir resigned following the charge against him, Najib said: "That is expected and is the practice... until he is able to clear his name or otherwise."

On who would replace Dr Khir, Najib said he would first look at the resignation letter before commenting further.

Meanwhile, Dr Khir has announced that he would refrain from making further comments on the case.

In a blog entry yesterday titled "No More Comments on the Case", he said on the advice of his lawyer, he would not be making any more comments on his case to avoid interference in the case or contempt of court.

This Mows A-G Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail's advice to Dr Khir on Wednesday to refrain from pursuing a trial-by-media.

"I respect the law procedures and will observe them as best as I can," he wrote in the post, in which he attached Gani's comments.