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No 'sandiwara'

> PM refutes opposition claims that KhirToyo's prosecution is just a show

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak yesterday refuted claims that the prosecution of former Selangor menteri besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo for alleged land fraud is just for show.

"There's no 'sandiwara' in Khir Toyo's case. If he has been charged, it is not a playing matter," he said after officiating the World Anti-Corruption Day celebration at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre yesterday.

"It's all done after all the details have been scrutinised by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission," he said, adding that the status of a person was irrelevant when it came to the law, and this was the reality that must be accepted and as normal citizens, everyone was bound by the law.

"Everyone is bound by the law and the MACC is free to investigate anyone no matter who they are," he said after witnessing the signing of a pledge by the business community to fight corruption.

Najib said MACC, as an independent body had submitted the case to the Attorney-General's Chambers, which was also an independent body, which "decided for prosecution".

"Everything is following due process. So now we will leave it to the court to decide if he is guilty or

not," he said, dismissing speculations that Mohd Khir's prosecution was just for show.

Najib said such an image (making claims that the prosecution was just a show) was portrayed due to the matter being politicised by certain irresponsible quarters. "When you speculate and politicise (like this), the perception (given) is as though we practise selective prosecution and cover-up."

Mohd Khir was charged in Shah Alam on Monday with knowingly buying two land lots and bungalow for RM3.5 million in Section 7 from Ditamas Sdn Bhd in 2007 despite the company buying the property for RM6.5 million on Dec 23, 2004.

On Mohd Khir's resignation as the Selangor opposition leader, Najib said that was how it was supposed to be. "Normally that is how it is, either until he can clear his name or otherwise," he said.

Asked who would replace Mohd Khir, Najib who is state Umno chief said: "We will wait for his letter. He said he will write to me."

Mohd Khir, who is the Sungai Panjang assemblyman, resigned as state opposition leader on Monday after he was charged, but left it to the discretion of the Umno leadership to decide on his position as Sungai Besar division leader.

"If it's a big problem for the party, I am willing to step down. But as a lawmaker, I will continue to serve on any platform until the court makes a



HEALTHY SIGN

The crowd surges forward to greet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak as he arrived in Sekolah Kebangsaan Pos Raya, Simpang Pulai-Cameron Highlands road yesterday to launch the 1 Malaysia mobile clinic. The mobile clinic is a bus equipped with medial equipment and provides health screening to residents in rural areas. It operates Monday to Friday between 8am and 5pm and visits fixed locations on a regular basis.

decision," he reportedly said.

On the charge, Mohd Khir said it proved that his bungalow was not worth RM24 million as alleged by his political foes.

Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail had, however, advised Mohd Khir against defending himself in the media, saying it was sub judicial for Mohd Khir to hold his own court as the charge preferred against him was already in the hands

of the court.

"Don't go for a trial by the media as it is wrong and can be used against you. The more you say, the more you are going to hurt yourself," Gani was quoted as saying.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the choice of someone to replace Mohd Khir as Selangor opposition leader will be decided by the BN leadership.

"Let the authorities decide (court

case). For BN it's work as usual," he said after opening the Peninsular Malaysia Penghulu/Penggawa Union general meeting in Selangor.

Saying party matters were not affected and continued as usual. Muhyiddin said Mohd Khir's problem did not mean that work at party and constituency level had to stop. "Someone will be picked to replace him in the state assembly," he added.