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Khir's prosecution is not a gimmick, says Najib

By **DHARMENDER SINGH** and **ZUHRIN AZAM AHMAD**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: The prosecution of former Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Khir Toyo for land fraud is not a gimmick, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Najib said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) scrutinised the facts of the case thoroughly before sending the papers to the Attorney-General's Chambers (AGC), which decided there were enough grounds to charge Dr Khir.

"We are not using the prosecution as a gimmick. How is it a *sandiwara* (sideshow) if he (Dr Khir) has been charged?"

"This is what happens when a corruption case is turned into a political issue. They (the opposition) want to slam the government by making it look as though we are not serious (in fighting corruption), we are covering up or we are conducting selective prosecution," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

The Prime Minister was speaking after witnessing the signing of a pledge to combat corruption by the Malaysia Chamber of Commerce,

Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce, Malaysian Associated Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers and the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Najib said this when commenting on opposition claims that Dr Khir's prosecution was a gimmick ahead of the general election.

On who would take over as the Selangor Opposition leader, Najib said a decision would only be made after he received Dr Khir's resignation letter.

On another matter, Najib said while the Cabinet had agreed in principle to the revision of electricity tariffs it did not mean that an increase was imminent.

"It (whether to increase the tariff or not) is up to the cabinet to decide.

"Any revision of the electricity tariff would take into consideration the burden borne by consumers," he said.

Dr Khir is alleged to have obtained two plots of land and a house from Ditamas Sdn Bhd director Shamsuddin Haryoni for RM3.5mil when in fact the lots were bought by Ditamas for RM6.5mil.



A token of appreciation

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak receiving a gift from Al-Bukhary Foundation chairman Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Al-Bukhary (left) after opening The Danna hotel in Langkawi yesterday. Looking on are former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali. The Danna is located at Telaga Harbour Park in Pantai Kok.