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Govt to make public Dr M's letter

NOTHING TO HIDE: Najib hopes move will put to rest people's doubts about country's stand on Israel

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THE government has decided that it will make public the letter sent by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to his counterpart, Ehud Barak of Israel.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this would either be done today or the latest tomorrow.

He said it was decided after Wisma Putra had scrutinised it.

"I am told the letter can be made public. It will allow the rakyat to understand Dr Mahathir's intention in sending the letter to Israel."

Najib said this after attending a groundbreaking ceremony of a new building block of SRJK (C) Yoke Kuan here.

The new building will have 18

new classrooms, with the government donating RM1 million towards its construction.

Najib said Dr Mahathir had sent the letter with an intention to fight for the rights of the Palestinians and declare the state as a sovereign country. It was also to show his concern over the security of the Palestinians.

"The letter is in accordance with the government's policy then and now. With it going public, it is hoped the people would not doubt the government's position against establishing a link with Israel."

Three days ago, Najib had said that he might publish the letter between Dr Mahathir and his Israeli counterpart if it did not pose a security risk.

Dr Mahathir had revealed that the correspondence with then Israeli prime minister was to convey Malaysia's refusal to recognise the Jewish state.

The former premier had also said that Barak had initiated the exchange to seek a softening of Malaysia's stance on the Israeli-Palestinian dispute.

Allegations on what actually transpired in the correspondence between the two leaders had surfaced recently, casting aspersions on the government's position on Palestine and Israel.

Najib, who was on a one-day visit to Selangor, was also asked on the recommendation made by the police to the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-G) to charge National Feedlot Corporation directors for criminal breach of trust via section 409 of the Penal Code.

"This is the process under the constitution.

"The A-G has the absolute discretion after checking if there is sufficient evidence."

Najib said no one should assume the investigation was over, as the A-G could ask for more evidence to support the case.

"This has happened in other cases. If the A-G is not happy with the investigation or if he needs more evidence, he will seek police assistance.

"This is because if the A-G decides to press charges, there must be adequate proof."

The prime minister also said no one could decide on the next step as it was up to the A-G.

On Saturday, Bukit Aman Commercial Criminal Investigation Department director Datuk Syed Is-

mail Syed Azizan said the proposal was made in the investigation papers being prepared by the police after they were returned by the A-G's Chambers on Tuesday for certain matters to be followed up.

Najib was also asked on Himpunan Hijau 2.0 protests held yesterday in Kuantan and several other locations.

He said the Lynas Advance Material Plant in Gebeng had been reviewed under tight conditions, which, according to scientific evidence, would not pose any danger.

"We will only issue an operating licence if we are happy that the local community accepts the project as a safe project, unless it is objected to because of political gain."

He said based on scientific evidence, the Lynas plant did not pose any danger to nearby residents due to stringent rules involved in the dumping of waste material.

