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PM: Not fair to fund Nur Fitri's studies

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Najib not agreeable to using public funds for sex offender's education

PETALING JAYA: The use of public funds to educate a child porn criminal is not fair, said the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he did not agree with those who called for Nur Fitri Azmeer Nordin's sentence to be reduced.

"I do not agree that the Government should appeal for his sentence to be reduced or use public funds for him and his education," he wrote in his blog on Thursday.

"He was tried in a British court in accordance to their legal system, where he was given the opportunity to defend himself and was later found guilty," he said, adding that Nur Fitri was convicted of a serious offence.

Najib said Malaysians should respect the law and accept that a criminal should be punished for his crime.

"However, I do feel that Nur Fitri should be given counselling to prevent him from repeating his crime.

"This needs to be done for the well-being of the community as well as Nur Fitri as an individual as it is the only way for him to be accepted back into the community," he said.

An online analysis on public sentiment over the issue showed that more than 84% of over 25,000 netizens felt that Nur Fitri should not be given a second chance to continue his studies under Mara scholarship.



Walk and talk: Najib walking with Minister of Women, Family and Community Development Datuk Seri Rohani Karim and Datuk Seri Idris Jala during a meeting of the Women On Board Club Malaysia in Petaling Jaya. - Bernama

Berkshire Consulting & Management Services head of data analytics Dr Vala Rohani said from the data that was collected from May 1 to May 7, only 3.2% of netizens were supportive of Mara's proposal for the criminal to be given a second chance to study locally

with the right supervision.

"During this time, an influential netizen who tweeted 'Lest Malaysians forget, Nurin Jazlin died 8 years ago in the hands of a paedophile, who is still free' received 7,600 retweets," she said.

She added that close to 10,000 posts also contained the #nosecondchance hash tag, where many netizens agreed that paedophiles should not be allowed to roam free.

On April 30, Nur Fitri was convicted by the Southwark Crown Court in London for possession of thousands of child porn videos and photographs and sentenced to 18 months' jail, although this was initially reported as five years.

Subsequent news reports that a Mara council member had called for the student to be given a second chance and be allowed to continue his studies locally upon the completion of his sentence sparked public outrage, with many Malaysians taking to social media to voice anger and disbelief.

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