

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	21 FEBRUARY 2017

PM: No reason to paint N. Korea in a bad light

The Star - 21/2/2017

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has no reason to do anything that will paint North Korea in a bad light, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Malaysian police and doctors, he said, had been “very professional” in their work.

“I have absolute confidence that they are objective in whatever they do. We have no reason to do something that paints the North Koreans in a bad light.

“We will be objective and expect them to understand that we apply the rule of law in Malaysia,” he told reporters after launching an international conference on Religion and Civilisational Sustainability here yesterday.

Najib was responding to a strongly worded statement by North Korean Ambassador to Malaysia Kang Chol, who had accused the country of colluding with South Korea over the death of Kim Jong-nam and that they “could not trust” the local police investigation.

Kang, who was summoned to Wisma Putra yesterday, also accused Malaysia of “unjust behaviour” and dismissed the investigation, claiming that it was not to seek clarification on the cause of death but rather “out of political aim”.

In Seoul, acting South Korea



Staying informed:

Director-General of IKIM Prof Datuk Dr Azizan Baharuddin explaining an exhibit to Najib after he launched an international conference on Religion and Civilisational Sustainability in Kuala Lumpur.

President Hwang Kyo-ahn blamed North Korea for Jong-nam’s murder, describing it as an act of terrorism and urging the international community to condemn the regime.

The *Korea Herald* reported Hwang zeroing in on the North for the assassination.

“I think it is certain that the North Korean regime is behind the incident.

“The incident is a criminal act of terrorism against humanity and we will never tolerate this. It demonstrates the reckless and brutal nature of the North Korean regime that uses whatever means possible to stay in power,” Hwang said.

South Korea’s Defence Minister Han Min-koo said the murder of Jong-nam, who had been critical of his half-brother Kim Jong-un’s

power succession, is part of Pyongyang’s attempts to remove potential challengers to Jong-un’s dictatorial power.

During his meeting with lawmakers yesterday, the minister also noted the alleged assassination of the elder Kim would deliver a “stern warning” to North Korean defectors and dissenters living inside the Stalinist regime.