

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	22 FEBRUARY 2017

Najib: Envoy's allegations diplomatically rude

The Star - 22/2/2017

Malaysians hit back against N. Korea's stance on probe

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian leaders have come out strongly against North Korea for alleging that the Government was politicising the murder investigation of Kim Jong-nam and colluding with Pyongyang's enemies.

"Diplomatically rude," said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in reference to the claims made by North Korea's ambassador to Malaysia Kang Chol.

On Monday, Kang Chol cast doubts on Malaysia's investigations into the assassination, demanding that North Korea be allowed to take part in a joint probe.

Kang Chol said North Korea "cannot trust the investigation" by the Malaysian police.

Yesterday, Najib said Malaysia would remain resolute in getting to the bottom of the assassination as the killing was committed on the country's soil.

"We are very objective. The statement by the ambassador was totally



uncalled for," he said.

"It is considered diplomatically rude on his part but Malaysia will stand firm.

"We will be guided by the principle of the rule of law," Najib said at a press conference after opening the SL1M Central Zone Open Interview Programme 2017. He also launched the SL1M book and system here.

When asked if Putrajaya would rethink its relations with North Korea, Najib said Malaysia would take "one step at a time".

He said both nations enjoyed good relations all this while, and as such, there was no reason to paint a "negative brush" over North

Korea's image.

Separately, MCA president Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said Kang Chol's baseless accusations were unbecoming of his position as a diplomat.

"We view such accusations seriously. The Malaysian investigation is still under way and we have been very transparent.

"The ambassador cannot make baseless accusations against us.

"It is nothing short of shocking," he told reporters after chairing a presidential council meeting yesterday.

Liow said the ambassador should understand that Malaysia was a sovereign state with its own laws.

"He should respect our laws. Malaysia and North Korea have had good diplomatic ties all this while.

"What he is doing threatens to destroy the bilateral relationship between our countries.

"We cannot allow such accusa-

tions to continue. Wisma Putra has met him and given him a stern warning," said Liow.

In **Beijing**, Malaysian ambassador to Pyongyang Mohamad Nizan Mohamad denied accusations from North Korea that the probe into

Jong-nam's death was politically tinged.

AP reported Mohamad Nizan as saying that the country's investigators were proceeding in a professional manner and would "be very objective and fair to everybody".