

'DID BOARD CONSIDER HOUSE ARREST?'

Ismail Sabri wants to know outcome of Najib's request submitted in royal pardon application

FORMER prime minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has asked the government to reveal if a house arrest was considered as part of his predecessor Datuk Seri Najib Razak's application for a royal pardon.

In his debate on the royal address in the Dewan Rakyat, Ismail Sabri said he had learnt that Najib, who is currently in Kajang Prison after being convicted of money laundering in the SRC International trial, had appealed for a transfer to house arrest.

"I was made to understand this was included as an attachment in



Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob

the pardon petition.

"My question is, is this true or not? And if it is true, was it discussed when the pardon application was presented and what was the outcome?"

On Feb 2, the Federal Territories Pardons Board halved Najib's 12-year jail term to six and reduced his fine from RM210 mil-

lion to RM50 million.

This meant that Najib would be released on Aug 23, 2028.

Several days later, Najib's lead counsel, Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah, alleged that the Pardons Board did not operate in accordance with the Federal Constitution, and that this would be one of their arguments in filing for a fresh pardon soon.

"It is unclear if the process of the Pardons Board and the decisions made to it were regular or otherwise.

"The law clearly states that the royal prerogative of mercy is at the sole discretion of the Yang di-Pertuan Agong. It is unfettered and non-challengeable in any court.

"However, the public are somewhat concerned due to the inconsistencies. My client is most baffled. As a result of these unsatisfactory features, we are looking at another application for another royal pardon," Shafee was reported as saying.