

Najib: Leave families out of politics
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak moved today to end allegations of sexual harassment levelled against Lim Guan Eng's son by calling on politicians to leave family members out of politics.

"That is ideal in a modern democracy where you concentrate on policy matters.

"You can debate the differences in policies in terms of weaknesses of implementation but you leave aside family, or the exploitation of family matters for your own political gain," the prime minister told reporters today.

Pro-Umno bloggers had claimed that the DAP Secretary-General's son had assaulted a 16-year-old schoolmate and had tried to escape punishment by using his father's name.

The Penang chief minister denied the allegations, saying he was furious with the "barbaric lies" made about his teenage son by "pro-Umno ferocious beasts".

The DAP later said the picture of the purported victim used by pro-Umno bloggers was that of 21-year-old chess grandmaster Anya Sun Corke, who is studying at Wellesley College in the US.

On Friday, Corke denied ever having met or hearing of Lim's son.

Lim's colleagues in Pakatan Rakyat (PR) also came out strongly in support of the DAP secretary-general against what they called "the lowest gutter politics" seen in decades.

But Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday called on Lim to let the police investigate the claims if he had nothing to hide.

Najib today said, "You have to agree on certain ethics. It works both ways.

"I do not know the facts of this case but if you want to abide by certain ethics, to exclude families, then everybody should adhere to it, including the Opposition," he said, appearing to refer to attacks against his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

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