

No Lynas if it is harmful, PM assures the people

TheStarOnline

March 23, 2012

PETALING JAYA: Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has given an assurance that the Lynas rare earth plant at Gebeng in Pahang will not be allowed to operate if the Government thinks it is harmful to the people and environment.

The Prime Minister said the health of the people was the Government's top priority and their safety would not be compromised.

"Those who are against Lynas should have a dialogue with us. We need to know what the technical arguments are against Lynas.

"This should not be a political or emotional issue. However, what began as an environmental issue has become political," Najib said in an interview with 988 FM radio yesterday.

Speaking on the morning show *988 Street VIP*, he said the findings of the Parliamentary Select Committee into the Lynas plant would provide "strong moral persuasion" on the issue.

"We are not legally bound by it but it provides us a strong moral basis to decide on the situation," he said, adding that he hoped the committee would be objective in its assessment.

The Dewan Rakyat approved the formation of the committee on Wednesday.

Lynas, an Australian mineral exploration and chemical processing company, has maintained that the waste from the plant being constructed at Gebeng, 25km from Kuantan, would not be hazardous and could be recycled for commercial use.

Meanwhile, Najib said that he personally answered three to four important questions on his Ah Jib Gor Facebook page almost every day.

On criticism he received on Facebook, he said he was disappointed that some were shallow.

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