

Khaled: Lynas panel sounding board for all parties
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 18 — The parliamentary select committee (PSC) on Lynas will be used as a platform for all parties to air their views on the rare earth plant, chairman Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin said today.

But Khaled, who is also higher education minister, stressed that such views should be based solely on fact and not politics or perception, Sinar Harian Online reported.

“If someone says a particular issue is not right, what makes it not right? We want scientific proof and information based on facts,” the daily quoted him as saying in Pasir Gudang, Johor.

The PSC will then address queries raised by relevant stakeholders, including experts, members of the public as well as political parties, he said.

Khaled (picture) said this would help show that the government is prepared to allow concerned members of the public room to voice their views.

He added that the panel will also seek to offer a more comprehensive explanation of the Lynas issue to Malaysians, in particular those living in the vicinity of the Australian miner’s rare earth refinery in Gebeng, Kuantan.

“We are now on the path to becoming an advanced nation [but] this nation will not progress and succeed if all our national developments are politicised based on perception.

“What the government is doing is timely. We don’t want any irresponsible talk of action. We want to be transparent and open,” he said.

The parliamentary select committee on Lynas, announced Friday, will also comprise four

Barisan Nasional (BN) MPs, three Pakatan Rakyat (PR) MPs and one independent lawmaker.

It will seek feedback from stakeholders such as regulators in addition to other groups, and will present its findings to Parliament by June.

Thousands of anti-Lynas protestors attended an opposition-backed rally by Himpunan Hijau last month in the largest protest yet against the rare earth plant that is expected to fire up later this year.

They allege that Lynas has not provided enough assurances as to how it will handle the low-level radioactive waste that will be produced at the refinery.

Lynas maintains that waste from the Gebeng plant will not be hazardous and can be easily recycled for commercial applications.

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