

**Much Anticipation On Najib's Possible Announcement On RCI In Tungku Friday
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LAHAD DATU, Feb 16 (Bernama) -- There is much anticipation in the air on Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's function tomorrow in Tungku, about 60 kilometre from here.

It is anticipated that the Prime Minister will be making the much-awaited announcement with regard to the federal cabinet's decision on a proposal to set up a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) on illegal immigrants in Sabah.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to deliver a speech and launch the the Mini Estate Sejahtera (MESEJ) project at Kampung Nala, Tungku in the morning and make a visit to the Palm Oil Industrial Cluster or POIC Lahad Datu, near here, in the afternoon before wrapping up his two-day visit to Sabah.

Many political pundits predict that the Prime Minister would probably make the announcement in Tungku, in the eastern part of Sabah bordering the southern part of the Philippines, and see it as a "perfect new year gift for the people of Sabah", who are banking on Najib's touch to find a lasting solution to the illegal immigrant problem in the state.

Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili was quoted as saying on Feb 10 that it was possible that the Prime Minister would make the announcement during his next visit to Sabah, slated for two days beginning today.

He was also quoted as saying that the recent cabinet meeting discussed in detail the issue of the proposed RCI, one of the hotly debated issues in Sabah, for both the state Barisan Nasional (BN) component party leaders and the opposition.

A day later, Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Tan Sri Bernard Dompok said that the Federal Cabinet had made a decision on the RCI..

The Upko president said the cabinet had given the mandate to Najib, architect of the 1Malaysia programme, to announce the decision.

Before this, Parti Bersatu Sabah (PBS) president Joseph Pairin Kitingan wanted enforcement agencies to step up tackling of the illegal immigrants problem in Sabah, calling for them to be flushed out by 2012.

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