

Lynas Safety Standards Must Be Monitored By Credible Body, Says Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said supervision of any safety standards for the Lynas rare earth project in Gebeng must be done by a credible body in the eyes of the public.

"The health and safety of the people will always be a priority," he said in a 90-minute interview called "Chat Time With Najib" broadcast live over NTV7 Monday night.

The Lynas rare earth project in Gebeng, Pahang has received all-round objection by the people due to safety concerns, particularly radiation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has said that Lynas has complied with its required standards for the project, although the Europe Committee on Radiation Risk (ECRR) says otherwise, stressing the effects of thorium retention in the human body.

"The people responsible for monitoring this project will see to it that the standards are always stringent, to give confidence to the people.

"We must also give assurance to them, on the implementation side," Najib added.

Asked whether the government would consider imposing ECRR's standard, which is said to be a safer model to follow, Najib stressed as far as the Government is concerned, the interest of the people comes first and their health and safety must be a top priority.

"We will not compromise on that," he added.

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