

Call for Najib-Anwar meet over MH370
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MP Surendran blasts BN for 'arrogance' in excluding Pakatan MPs from a briefing.

PETALING JAYA: A member of parliament today urged Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak to meet Opposition Leader Anwar Ibrahim over the MH370 issue, saying such a consultation would be in keeping with democratic practice in times of national crises.

“This is no time for party politicking,” Padang Serai MP N Surendran said in a media statement complaining about the parliamentary opposition’s exclusion from a briefing on the crisis.

Acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein yesterday sent out invitations to BN MPs for a briefing scheduled today.

“Pakatan Rakyat MPs have been deliberately barred from a government briefing and this shows Najib’s disregard of good democratic practice and transparent government,” said Surendran, who is a PKR vice-president.

“It is crucial for the opposition to be consulted in times like these to enable the country to face this challenge in a strong and united manner.”

He noted that Malaysian authorities had been subject to heavy criticism in the international media over their handling of the crisis.

Despite that, he said, the government “remains arrogant and stubborn in its refusal to inform and consult the opposition”.

“The nation’s vital interests and global reputation are at stake; this is no time for party politicking. We call upon PM Najib Tun Razak to immediately meet with the federal opposition leader ... on the ongoing crisis.”

Negative and divisive

Meanwhile DAP’s veteran leader Lim Kit Siang said Hishammuddin’s briefing for BN MPs was very negative and divisive.

“With the increase in questions, confusions and controversies surrounding the MHY370 crisis, it is most unfortunate and regrettable that Hishammuddin is holding a “For BN MPs only” briefing tonight.

“This is a very negative and divisive development as well as inimical to Parliament’s role to conduct full investigations into the MH370 tragedy after the SAR operation,” he said in a statement.

He urged Hishammuddin to respect and not to compromise in any way Parliament's special interests, rights and responsibility to conduct full and comprehensive inquiry into the MH370 crisis after the SAR operation.

"He must also ensure that his briefing is given to all MPs and not just a section of MPs, and that such briefing should be given immediately without any delay," added the Gelang Patah MP.

Lim also expressed disappointment over the government's lack of interest in his call for the immediate formation of a Parliamentary Select Committee on Disasters.

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