

**Government Wants Thorough Probe Of Melbourne Property Purchase By Mara Inc – Najib  
Bernama  
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KUALA LUMPUR, June 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the government wants the issue over the purchase of property by Mara Inc in Melbourne to be thoroughly investigated.

The prime minister said: "We want this matter to be thoroughly investigated. We will give our full cooperation. We want the matter to be investigated and determined by the authorities.

"This is to ensure that there are no doubts in the investigation and its outcome," said Najib, who is also UMNO president, after he had chaired a meeting of the party supreme council at Menara Dato Onn here.

The Age newspaper of Australia had reported that a top Mara officer, senior official and former politician had allegedly spent millions in government funds to buy an apartment block in Melbourne in a property scam.

The Australian newspaper alleged that "a group of super-rich Malaysian officials" overpaid by A\$4.75 million (RM13.8 million) for an apartment block in the city in 2013.

The trio had allegedly "overbid" for the building, called Dudley International House, from A\$17.8 million to A\$22.5 million (RM65.3 million), with the difference reported to be pocketed as bribes back home.

Dudley International House was bought by MARA to serve as a hostel for its sponsored students in Melbourne.

The five-storey Dudley International House building located in suburban East Caulfield currently houses 115 Mara students studying at Monash University.

Najib was also asked on the government's action against Sarawak Report, said to have obtained and reported information gathered from former PetroSaudi International Ltd executive Xavier Justo, who is under arrest in Thailand.

On Wednesday (June 24), Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said he was informed that Justo was the individual responsible for distributing inaccurate information to the Sarawak Report blog, triggering numerous unfounded allegations against 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Najib said the government would take appropriate action soon after obtaining the official investigation report from the Thai authorities.

"We must wait for the report and get confirmation from the Thai authorities. I understand

that the Thai police will inform the Malaysian police soon.

"When we are informed of the admission made, get clear evidence from the Thai government on behalf of their police, only then will the Malaysian government take the appropriate action.

"I do not want to supercede the official report from the Thai authorities. The Inspector-General of Police and the Home Minister are awaiting reports from Thailand," he added.

Several newspapers had on Wednesday reported that Justo was arrested by Thai police on charges of extorting PetroSaudi, quoting Thai media and the company.

PetroSaudi, a multinational oil and gas company based in Saudi Arabia, has been in the limelight in Malaysia following its previous collaboration with 1MDB.

Najib also did not deny the involvement of insiders in relation to the (1MDB) controversy, saying: "We do not know. Might be."

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