

> ALLEGATIONS OVER MAS SHARES SELL-BACK

Najib: No need for a Royal Commission

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KUALA LUMPUR: There is no need to set up a Royal Commission to investigate businessman Tan Sri Tajudin Ramli's recent allegations. Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it was up to the court to make a decision on the issues raised.

"It is for the court to decide. I don't think there's a need to have a Royal Commission," he said. Najib was speaking at a ceremony to mark 50 years of Felda yesterday. He declined further comment as the case was in court.

Opposition leader Lim Kit Siang had asked the Government to set up a royal commission to investigate Tajudin's allegations and his MAS shares' sell-back to the Government at a price that was above the market price in 2000.

Tajudin has filed court docu-

ments alleging that he was directed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin in 1994 to buy a controlling stake in Malaysia Airlines to bail out the Government.

He made the claim in his RM13.46 billion counter-suit filed last week against a RM589 million suit by Danaharta over his acquisition of 32 per cent of MAS shares in 1994 and selling them back to the Government for RM1.8 billion or RM8 a share, above the market price of RM3.68 a share, in 2000.

On the bullet train proposal, Najib said: "Let us study the proposal first. When they submit it to the Government, I'm sure it will be brought to the Cabinet."

He also confirmed that it had to involve talks with Singapore if the project were to be implemented.



Najib said the matter should be left to the courts to decide.

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