

Rafizi wants PM to act on RM400mil timber scandal

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By S Pathmawathy

PKR has given Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak seven days to act on what the party has dubbed as a RM400 million timber scandal involving Foreign Affairs Minister Anifah Aman.

Whistleblower website Sarawak Report accused Anifah of "secretly" receiving lucrative timber licences in the state under the influence of his elder brother and chief minister, Musa Aman.

"We want Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to instruct Anifah and Musa to take leave from their official duties, and hold them answerable to the allegations," PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli said at a press conference in the Parliament lobby today.

NONEAttorney-General Abdul Gani Patail (right) should also be suspended from his duties with immediate effect, said Rafizi, for Gani's reluctance to bring charges against Anifah and Musa despite the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), which investigated the case for two years, saying so.

According to Sarawak Report, Gani, who is said to be closely linked with Anifah and Musa, had coerced the MACC not to take further action.

"The AG has to be held answerable not just for this matter, but also to many other scandals linking him," said Rafizi.

"We are giving Najib and the government the opportunity, one week, to respond to this.

"Bring these people to court or we will bring this issue to the public courts, like how we exposed the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) scandal. In fact, this is bigger than NFC," said Rafizi.

According to him, the MACC's witness in the case had written to the AG's Chambers, offering to testify on the allegations on Jan 15, 2011.

However, a month later, on Feb 9, the chambers' prosecution division chief Tun Abdul Majid Tun Hamzah wrote back to the lawyer for this witness, rejecting the application.

PKR deputy secretary-general Darell Leiking, who is heads the task force to unravel information pertaining the timber scandal, said there were plenty of documents to back their claims.

'Evidence we have implicates three public figures'

"We can reveal documents leaked to us to the media, involving thousands of pages, including bank slips that show the transfers of monies," Darell told reporters.

NONE"We are confident that the evidence that we have in our hands implicate the three public figures. The evidence will be revealed in stages until all those involved have been brought to book," he said.

Rafizi (left) added that PKR is working together with Sarawak Report, in exposing documents that indicate corruption.

Last week, Sarawak Report alleged that MACC began its covert investigations after an agent and nominee for Musa, Michael Chia, had been caught attempting to smuggle S\$16 million out of Hong Kong in 2008.

Furnishing documents purportedly from MACC, the website named Anifah and a nephew, Hairul Aman, as beneficiaries of two major timber concessions through two companies allegedly linked to them.

The two companies were named as Aktif Syabas Sdn Bhd and Para Era Sdn Bhd. Musa and Anifah have both denied any involvement with the case.

Malaysiakini has contacted the MACC to verify the allegations but the agency has yet to respond as at press time.

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