

**Najib should also sue over PI Bala's allegations**  
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FREE YOURSAY 'Rais, do I have the same basic rights? Can I sue Najib for things he said?'

Suing Mkini within Najib's basic rights, says Rais

Magnus: If Najib Razak is suing in his capacity as political head of Umno, then he will lose because the alleged defamatory comments are fair comment made by the general public and ordinary citizenry to the free press about Najib in his public elected role and official capacity as prime minister of Malaysia, and not in his capacity and role as political head of Umno.

Najib the PM and head of government is not the same legal entity/person as Najib the political head of Umno.

I think it fair to say that no one really gives a hoot about Najib in any of his capacities other than that of the PM, and in that key role, Najib cannot sue for defamation any true and/or fair comment/criticism made about him by those to whom he is ultimately accountable to in the democratic system.

Oriole: Interesting comment, Rais Yatim (advisor to the government on social and cultural affairs).

The PM of Malaysia has had worse criticisms which have embarrassed him and his wife internationally. Why was action not taken over those more embarrassing matters?

Why is he so afraid of participating in a public debate that he has to take it to a court? And Rais, are you his chief advisor in this matter? Curiouser and curiouser.

Vijay47: Welcome back, Rais Yatim. I am glad that you have returned from the wilderness and in the process continue to come out with the nonsense statements you are famous the world over.

In case the finer point missed you, nobody has tried to deny the prime minister, or you for that matter, his basic rights.

But the universal stand is that being prime minister, Najib should be man enough to bear criticism and not use brute might to avoid comments not palatable to his exquisite palate.

The hallmark of a true leader, which Najib would want us to believe he is, is that he is able to withstand the unwelcome or even unsavoury comments that comes with the territory.

Just standing next to US President Barack Obama hardly cuts the ice.

Rais Yatim, you seem unable to grasp this basic simple truth. Of course, nobody is surprised. Speaking of dignity, why did you accept a government post when you got hammered out of shape in the elections? Again, nobody is surprised.

Not Smart: Rais, it is totally agreed that the PM as a person with dignity, should clear his name, for having been embarrassed and ridiculed on the Terengganu matter through the best venue for him, i.e the court.

However, you failed to suggest or advise the PM of the same, when you were in the cabinet, when he was embarrassed and ridiculed over the death of a foreigner some time ago. That was even a more stronger 'character assassination' of the PM as compared to this one.

Rais, it is not too late now and may be you want to do so to help him to clear his good name as well on this long outstanding matter.

Dr Spin: Rais again has totally missed the point. Commentators recognise Najib's personal right to sue, but advise that the PM should be more concerned with the rights of the rakyat to free press, debate and the right to criticise government and the executive.

Rais and the PM could learn much from actually studying and understand the readers' comments here in Malaysiakini.

Apa Nama: Rais, we the commenters fully aware that the suit against Malaysiakini is due to our comments and not due to Malaysiakini journalists.

Meanwhile suit by opposition leaders Lim Guan Eng and Anwar Ibrahim were against journalists for their respective reports and not commenters' comments in these newspapers.

That said, the law suit is being carried out selectively. That puzzled us. He was even 'slandered' more than this previously regarding a murder case whereby a private investigator (P Balasubramaniam) even came up with two contradictory SDs (statutory declarations).

At that point of time, did he had any dignity as you claimed or is that dignity started to grow slowly until now he fully gain it so that he could started to take legal action?

Mushiro: Rais said this is the best way for the PM to clear the embarrassment and ridicule caused to him. But why must the PM pick and choose in who to sue?

There have been bigger accusations against the PM such as the Altantuya Shaariibuu murder, the Scorpene commissions, the mega corruption and his wife Rosmah Mansor's misuse of government assets and yet the PM kept quiet.

Fair Play: To all right-thinking rakyat, are we right thinking? If yes, we should respect the PM's right to take any action he deems appropriate.

If he thinks that by taking action against Malaysiakini is the right thing to do, let's respect it.

The outcome (court decision) will give us direction how and what we, the right-thinking rakyat, need to do to ensure Malaysiakini remains our source (presently our only source) of information.

CiViC: Rais, do I have the same basic rights? Can I sue Najib for the things he said? Everyone knows he has the right to sue, but as the prime minister, is it morally and ethically right to do so?

Nevertheless, as I have commented before, go ahead and sue, let him put himself in court. I am sure the lawyers are already compiling each and every comment posted, and good luck to Najib explaining each and every one of it.

Casey: When men who hold public offices indulge in abuse and scandal, deny others of a fair trial and justice, resort to libel, innuendo and insinuation; the democratic society is naturally outraged.

Democracy can only be sustained through an open society with free flow of information. When there is information, there is awareness. When there is discourse and debate, there are solutions.

Conversely, where propagandistic state control information subsisted, there shall be no sharing of power, no rule of law and no accountability.

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