

Minister: Frozen accounts may not belong to PM

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By Radzi Razak

Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob said it wasn't necessarily the prime minister's accounts which was frozen following the 1MDB-related investigations.

Ismail (photo) who admitted he is not privy to the details said the frozen accounts may not belong to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak after all.

"There has yet to be official statement but before this, it wasn't the prime minister who was investigated but the companies who allegedly channelled the money to his account.

"Maybe it was the company's account that were frozen," he told reporters at Serdang tonight.

Earlier today, a special taskforce revealed it has frozen six bank accounts in connection with the allegation that RM2.6 billion of 1MDB funds were transferred into Najib's personal accounts.

While the taskforce remained tightlipped on whose accounts these were, Malaysiakini learnt that three of them belonged to the prime minister.

This was revealed by a highly placed source familiar with the ongoing investigation into the scandal that has threatened Najib's political career.

"Yes, the three accounts are his (Najib's)," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We have to be careful and tread cautiously on this matter," he told Malaysiakini, but declined to reveal details on the other three accounts.

Stop making any speculation

The freezing of the accounts followed four days of investigation by Bank Negara, the police, the Attorney-General's Chambers and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Ismail said the public should stop making any speculation and wait until the taskforce reveals more information.

He said the taskforce is focusing on their investigations and hoped that Najib won't have to face "trial by media" without any conclusive evidence.

"Don't draw your own conclusion and mete your own punishment before the investigation

is completed.

"The judgement by the public and social media is not good and will become a trial by media. It would disturb the duty and responsibility of the special taskforce who are currently investigating it thoroughly," he said.

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