

After damning reports, PKR to file suit on BN seats

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PKR will file a civil suit to nullify seats won by BN in the last general election following a report in The Wall Street Journal that funds from 1MDB were used for its 13th general election campaign.

This was revealed by PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar, who said the suit would be filed as "soon as possible".

Nurul Izzah said the reports have brought into question the credibility of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, BN and Umno to continue to govern the nation.

"The exposes by WSJ and Sarawak Report have left Malaysia reeling from the allegations," she said.

The Lembah Pantai MP said the Election Commission (EC), due to its "expected nature", cannot be expected to take action.

Stressing her point further, Nurul Izzah cited the EC's past conduct - from the civil suit it faced following the indelible ink fiasco and various inaction on its part on pledges of political bribery implicating government ministers, among others.

The PKR vice-president went on to declare that her party was prepared to face elections in the seats it had won in the last general election.

"(This is) in the event that the 13th general election is declared null and void.

"We remain committed to our pursuit of electoral reforms, especially considering that as legislators, we had voted for many changes in our electoral system, as stipulated by the 2012 parliamentary select committee on electoral reform," she said.

Reports to be lodged with MACC this weekend

Nurul Izzah added that the party would also lodge reports on the possible corrupt practices in political funding with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) this weekend.

This follows electoral watchdog Bersih, as well as Centre to Combat Corruption and Cronyism (C4) and Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), which have already filed their complaints.

Among others, the complaints highlight the purchase of a power plant belonging to Genting Bhd; excessively above market price and how the money was re-channelled to Yayasan Rakyat 1Malaysia (YR1M) - through which Najib announced a RM2 million donation to two

schools.

Nurul Izzah noted that the donation was not part of YR1M's scope but was crucial in ensuring BN's win in the area.

She then pointed out to Section 19 of the Elections Offences Act (1954), which limits each candidate to campaigning funds of RM200,000 for a parliamentary seat and RM100,000 for a state seat.

"As such, the maximum electoral spending for the 222 parliamentary seats and the 505 state assembly seats should have been RM44.4 million and RM50.5 million each. This amounts to RM 94.9 million, which is definitely below the RM2.6 billion that is alleged to have been used to finance the 13th general election.

"The amount, originally stated as US\$700 million, and allegedly found in the prime minister's personal accounts, is 26 times more than the allowable electoral limit, and this clearly contravenes existing electoral laws.

"Furthermore, who is to say that the alleged transaction was the only source of electoral fundings for Umno and Barisan Nasional in the last general election," Nurul Izzah added.

Citing Malaysian government investigators, The Wall Street Journal revealed last Friday that almost US\$700 million in 1MDB's funds had been deposited into Najib's private bank accounts through proxies.

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