

PAS: PM must not define scope of probe on him
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It was wrong for Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to set out the scope of the special task force, set up to investigate how RM2.6 billion was allegedly deposited in his personal accounts.

This is according to PAS deputy president Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man, who questioned Najib's statement yesterday, where the premier said the issue being probed was whether he had used 1MDB funds for his personal interest.

"Such a statement will invite perceptions that the special task force is not independent, and had received instructions from Najib, who is the accused," he said.

"This is not right and not good in his efforts to clear his name," said the Islamic party leader.

In his blog yesterday, Najib had spelled out the scope of the task force.

"The investigation by the special task force is to determine whether WSJ's allegation that I took 1MDB funds for my personal interest has any basis or not.

"The investigation must consider the veracity of the documents published by the newspaper to support their actions," said Najib.

Tuan Ibrahim (photo) also asserted what was worse was that the four in the task force, worked under the premier.

They are attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail, inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar, MACC chief commissioner Abu Kassim Mohamed and governor of Bank Negara, Zeti Akhtar Aziz.

"As such, PAS reiterates that Najib should take leave so the investigation will be seen as transparent. If not, there will still be doubts on Najib, even if the team clears him," he said.

The PAS deputy president added since Najib has repeatedly claimed innocence, the question if 1MDB had transferred the money to his account still lingers.

He asked if indeed the money was transferred, and with Najib saying he had never taken funds for personal gain, then what was the money for?

Thus, the scope of the task force, besides probing if 1MDB's funds were indeed transferred into bank accounts owned by Najib, should also include finding out where the money was subsequently channeled to, he said.

"Were any cheques issued from said account, received it and in whose interest?" he asked, adding the investigation should be conducted with the utmost urgency.

"Besides raiding 1MDB's office, PAS proposes that its accounts be frozen to accelerate the investigation," he declared.

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