

'Stephen', Lester e-mails fuel further doubts

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By Radzi Razak

Pertubuhan Minda dan Sosial Prihatin (PMSP) chairperson Ramesh Rao today revealed screencaps of an e-mail exchange allegedly between Lester Melanyi and Briton graphic designer 'James Steward Stephen' to back up claims that 1MDB-related documents were doctored.

Speaking to *Malaysiakini*, Ramesh said the e-mail exchange was proof that 'Stephen' existed and was in league with Lester and *Sarawak Report* editor Claire Rewcastle-Brown to doctor documents in a conspiracy against 1MDB and the Malaysian prime minister.

"Let this e-mail *bantai* (hit) the doubters," he said.

The e-mail exchange, however, did not mention *Sarawak Report* or Rewcastle Brown by name with only a reference to an unnamed woman who had not paid him ('Stephen') for his services.

Part of the second e-mail from 'Stephen' to Lester read: '... and you can help me [...] she has been harassing with a lot of things and the latest he (sic) wanted me to work for her (again!!) for her latest story. an I have not received my bloody money. have you?'"

Stephen also provided Lester (*photo*) with his home phone number. *Malaysiakini*, however, could not reach the number provided and has yet to receive a reply from both Stephen and Lester on this matter.

Yesterday, a clip of Lester's second video confession alleged that one 'James Steward Stephen' was a skilled graphic designer with extensive abilities to create forgeries and counterfeits.

Lester then went on to allege that 'Stephen' was responsible for creating 90 percent of the forged documents on 1MDB under Rewcastle-Brown's order based on information she obtained from former PetroSaudi International executive Xavier Andre Justo.

E-mail origin not stated

Sarawak Report has replied to say the picture of Stephen provided by Lester is actually that a British Railway services manager named James Steward.

Malay Mail Online then reported Lester as admitting the makers of his video confession had used the wrong photograph of the alleged documents forger and insisted that the 'Stephen' he meant indeed existed and was still in contact with him.

Ramesh (*photo*), who lodged a police report on July 15 of [a conspiracy](#) by *Sarawak Report*, did not explain the origin of the e-mail exchange between 'Stephen' and Lester except to say it was part of the expose which would unfold in time.

Rewcastle has also revealed that Lester had [never worked](#) for Sarawak Report and was only hired for a few months at sister organisation *Radio Free Sarawak* (RFS) in 2011 and was a 'shady character'.

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