

Dr M: One cannot tamper all PetroSaudi data

MalaysiaKini.com

July 24, 2015

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It is impossible that all leaked PetroSaudi International documents have been tampered, as there are just so much of them, former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad says.

Therefore, Mahathir said, the relevant parties should show which documents have been tampered.

"Show what was tampered. Show the documents, show where these were modified.

"(How can) you tamper so many documents? You can't," Mahathir said when met by reporters at the Shangri-La Hotel lobby in Kuala Lumpur today.

In a report by Singapore's Strait Times today, former PetroSaudi executive Xavier Andre Justo claimed there was a plot to tamper the documents he stole from the company, in order to topple the government.

Justo said he had given the documents to Sarawak Report editor-in-chief Clare Rewcastle-Brown, and a Malaysian businessman.

Payment was never made

The Edge media group boss Tong Kooi Ong later revealed that he was the businessman, but denied tampering the documents. Sarawak Report also denied the allegations.

Tong (photo) said he had tricked Justo into handing the document by promising to pay US\$2 million (RM7.6 million). The payment however was never made.

Justo was arrested last month by Thai police in the island resort of Koh Samui for alleged attempts to extort money from his former employer, PetroSaudi.

The Malaysian government has repeatedly claimed that documents he leaked were tampered in its bid to dismiss stunning allegations against Prime Minister Najib Razak and 1MDB involving criminal breach of trust.

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