

## **Najib won't shy off from an 'Ops Lallang 2015'**

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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak will not shy away from launching an 'Operation Lallang 2015' that will be bigger than former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad's 1987 operation of the same name, DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang has said.

"Najib will shed no tears to kill democracy and even launch a bigger 'Operation Lallang 2015' than Mahathir's 1987 operation to save his political life," Lim said in his speech at Perlis DAP state committee's sixth anniversary celebration in Kangar last night.

Operation Lallang 1987 saw the arrests of more than 100 people, including opposition politicians and activists, under the Internal Security Act, which allowed detention without trial. The ISA has since been repealed by the Najib administration.

The publishing licences of two dailies, The Star and Sin Chew Jit Poh, and two weeklies, The Sunday Star and Watan, were revoked as well during this period.

Lim, the MP for Gelang Patah, said that Malaysia had not only recovered from the 1987 operation, which he called a "multi-faceted assault on democracy and human rights", but achieved new democratic breakthrough in the 13th general election, with the opposition garnering 52 percent of the popular vote.

However, he warned, Malaysia was today facing an even bigger democratic crisis.

"Malaysia is in the midst of another round of intensive attacks on democracy, human rights and the independence, impartiality and professionalism of key national institutions, which have not yet fully recovered from the first round of assaults on the institutions in the Mahathir era," he said.

### **'Nine days of madness in Putrajaya'**

Lim cited a slew of examples, including the blocking of whistleblower site Sarawak Report, the three-month suspension of The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily, the sackings of Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy prime minister, Shafie Apdal as rural and regional development minister and Abdul Gani Patail as attorney-general.

The recent harassments against the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) are another such example, he said, calling it "nine days of madness in Putrajaya", during which the MACC officers were arrested and interrogated.

Two MACC directors had even been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office, which caused widespread backlash, leading to their transfers back to MACC.

Mahathir had even predicted that Bank Negara governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz (photo) would be

the next to be investigated, Lim noted.

He questioned why senior public officers who have had good standing and experience, such as Gani and Zeti, are suddenly being "looked at with askance by the powers-that-be and even suspected of being 'traitors' involved in an international plot to topple the elected government of Malaysia".

The Najib administration, Lim added, seemed to be finding for a national enemy or traitor behind every bush and stone, "as if traitors are crawling all over the key national positions".

They especially seem to find these "national enemies" in three of the four agencies that make up the special task force investigating the 1MDB scandal - the Attorney-General's Chambers, Bank Negara Malaysia and MACC.

Even as Lim urged Najib to end this madness and return to sanity, starting with the cabinet meeting today, the DAP lawmaker also wondered if this was now beyond Najib's powers and capabilities.

### **'Nobody believes donation story'**

In a separate statement today, PKR Wanita chief Zuraida Kamaruddin said Najib got his priorities wrong in joking at the Pasir Gudang Umno division annual meeting yesterday as whether they wanted the 1Malaysia People's Aid (BR1M).

"Did BR1M come from the RM2.6 billion that the PM claimed was a donation from an anonymous donor? A donation which caused a cabinet reshuffle because it was a donation that must not be questioned?" Zuraida (photo) asked.

She also said that the donation had seen the replacement of the attorney-general as well as the halt to the Public Accounts Committee's (PAC) investigation into 1MDB.

Several of the new appointees into the government following the cabinet reshuffle at the end of last month had been members of the PAC, including former PAC chairperson Nur Jazlan Mohamed.

Zuraida said the MACC should not be interfered with by the police or other agencies, so that its officers could carry out their investigations, as the public demands a full explanation on the RM2.6 billion in Najib's personal account.

"Nobody believes Najib's story about the said donation," she added.