

Najib ordered to respond to PKR suit over polls spending

MalaysiaKini.com

Sept 3rd, 2015

Hafiz Yatim

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has been ordered by the High Court in Kuala Lumpur to file his defence in a suit on the 2013 general election spending against him by PKR and other opposition leaders by Oct 1.

The High Court also ordered the BN to file its defence on Sept 15, while 1MDB and the Election Commission (EC) have to respond on Sept 14.

The matter came up before deputy registrar Nor Fauzani Mohd Nordin, who made the directions during the case management today.

Nor Fauzani also ordered the next case management to be heard on Oct 9 and informed parties that the matter would be heard before Justice Mohd Zaki Wahab.

Mohd Hafarizam Harun (photo), who is representing Najib and the BN secretary-general, told this to Malaysiakini when contacted today.

1MDB was represented by Tan Hock Chuan, while senior the federal counsel in attendance were Alice Loke Yee Ching and Azizan Md Arshad.

PKR on Aug 12 filed a civil suit against Najib for alleged electoral offences following The Wall Street Journal's exposé on the RM2.6 billion deposited in the prime minister's personal bank accounts.

PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar, who announced the filing of the suit, said BN secretary-general Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor, 1MDB and the EC were also named in the suit as defendants.

The plaintiffs were represented by Michelle Kumar.

Hafarizam said he received the appointment letter to represent Najib this morning.

"Following this, I will ask Messrs Tommy Thomas, the firm that filed the suit against my client, to serve the papers on me," he said.

Najib to apply to strike out suit

PKR, along with PKR de facto leader, Anwar Ibrahim, former PKR secretary-general Saifuddin Nasution Ismail, PKR vice-presidents Nurul Izzah Anwar and Chua Tian Chang (Tian Chua), and former PAS leader Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad named Najib, Tengku Adnan, 1MDB and EC as defendants.

Dzulkefly and Saifuddin had lost in the last general election.

They argued in their suit that Najib, who also heads the 1MDB board of advisers, could have used the money and allocation to flout the EC laws on the expenditure limit for elections.

The plaintiffs are seeking several declarations, among them that Najib committed corrupt practices with the fund of RM2.7 billion entering into his personal accounts; that the BN be de-registered; that the conclusion of the 222 parliamentary seats had been compromised; and that the results of GE13 be therefore set-aside.

They also want the court to rule that each of the defendants, either acting individually or with each other, had maliciously and dishonestly practised fraud on the Malaysian electorate by the commission of corrupt and illegal practices, and as a consequence the results of GE13 should be declared null and void.

Hafarizam also said he had informed the court today that Najib and Tengku Adnan would apply to strike out the suit as the civil court is not the proper platform to hear the matter and that it was not correct for the plaintiffs to name Najib and Tengku Adnan as defendants.

Copyright © 1999-2012 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://www.malaysiakini.com/news/310969>