

## **Is RM2.6b grand corruption or donation, Amnesty asks Najib**

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Criticism against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak at the 16th International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) continues to mount, with Amnesty International secretary-general Salil Shetty asking the premier to explain if the RM2.6 billion in his personal bank accounts was "grand corruption".

This is amid Najib loyalists insisting that the massive deposits was a "political donation" from the Middle East.

"We had newspapers shut down, websites closed, the attorney-general sacked, the Public Accounts Committee suspended, investigating agencies disturbed.

"Now RM2.6 billion had disappeared - US\$700 million.

"The prime minister has to come clean; tell us if this is grand corruption," he told participants at the IACC in Putrajaya today.

Salil was speaking at a session entitled: 'Grand corruption: How to stop the corrupt stealing from you and me'.

He then went on to repeat the same questions raised by several other top anti-graft figures at the conference since the opening on Wednesday.

"Where did the money come from and where has it gone?" he asked.

### **Najib asked to 'tell the truth'**

On Wednesday, Transparency International president Jose Ugaz said during the opening of the IACC on Wednesday that Malaysia was facing a corruption crisis and asked Najib to explain.

"We want to see more progress but that cannot happen while there are unanswered questions about the US\$700 million that made its way into the prime minister's personal bank account," he had said.

Yesterday, IACC council member Michael Hershman also took aim at Najib, albeit diplomatically, telling the prime minister that he cannot cover up the scandal.

"My advice to the Malaysian prime minister would be not to cover up, not to obstruct justice because it doesn't work.

"Tell the truth. Where did the money come from? What was its intended use and if he did

something wrong, ask for forgiveness and face the consequences," he said.

Today is the last day of the three-day IACC.

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