

'Najib luckiest, most generous to get and return RM2.03b'

MalaysiaKini.com

Jan 26th, 2016

Hafiz Yatim

Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak must be one of the luckiest persons to get RM2.6 billion and most generous one for returning RM2.03 billion, PKR vice-president Rafizi Ramli said mockingly today.

Rafizi was referring to attorney-general (AG) Mohamed Apandi Ali's statement earlier in the day that he has cleared the prime minister of any wrongdoing as there is no case against Najib, based on the three investigation papers submitted by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC).

Apandi, who ordered the RM2.6 billion investigation against the prime minister to be closed, said Najib had returned the money to the Saudi Arabian royal family in August 2013 because the sum was not utilised.

"Najib should have said this earlier, for the country found itself in a protracted battle (by Najib not saying so)," Rafizi said.

He added that AG's the reason for not preferring charges against Najib was getting ridiculous by the day as this (sort of thing) only happens in fairy tales.

"Not only is Najib the luckiest person to get the RM2.6 billion, but also a most generous one for returning part of the amount. This can only happen in fairy tales and not in real life. It is getting more ridiculous with the explanation.

"If Najib wants to remain a clown, that is his choice. But I am concerned with having a clown as the prime minister when the country needs a credible government of the day in the face of mounting economic problems," Rafizi, the MP for Pandan, said.

"How can anyone take this (reasoning provided by Apandi) seriously? I don't think anyone buys the argument.

"It's not a matter of the PM trying to make a joke of himself, but I am concerned about the credibility of the government when we face the most acute economic problem in recent years," Rafizi, who is also PKR secretary-general, added.

The ridiculousness of the AG's statement today, Rafizi believes, would further push down the credibility of Najib's administration.

'Change gov't and do a forensic audit'

The best way to get to the bottom of this, he said, would be to have a change in government

and a forensic audit carried out on the 1MDB matter.

“Unless all these issues are dealt with transparently, Apandi's decision to clear the PM today will heighten dissatisfactions further. I do not think we can get to the bottom of this, unless there is a change of government and new investigations initiated under a Royal Commission of Inquiry.

“At the start we asked for a forensic audit on 1MDB, as it would show all the details. Because the government suffers credibility issues, if it is interested in bringing order to the government, it should allow a forensic audit and not ask the AG to issue a statement that is illogical,” he said.

So far, Rafizi said, no forensic audit was carried out, for “we do not know whether the auditor-general had conducted a forensic audit”.

There was also no confirmation from the auditor-general that there had been a forensic audit.

“There is no confirmation from the auditor-general that its investigation also involved a forensic investigation,” Rafizi, a qualified chartered accountant, said.

He said this after he paid a fine of RM1,800 after being found guilty of criminal defamation by the Sessions Court in Petaling Jaya today.

He was asked to comment on Apandi's decision not to press charges against Najib, based on the the three MACC papers submitted to the AG's Chambers.