

## **DiCaprio foundation says it will return gifts if from 1MDB**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Oct 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Reuters**

Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio's charitable foundation will return gifts or donations made to him or his ventures if they are found to have come from Malaysian wealth fund 1MDB, which is being investigated for money laundering allegations, his representatives said yesterday.

In his first comment on the multinational investigations into the fund, DiCaprio said he was cooperating with US authorities to determine if money had come from questionable sources, according to the statement.

In July, a Hollywood production company was accused in a US civil lawsuit of using US\$100 million that prosecutors said had been diverted from the 1MDB fund to finance the 2013 film 'The Wolf of Wall Street', in which DiCaprio starred.

In a statement yesterday, DiCaprio's representatives said he had first learned of the investigation through press reports in July.

"He immediately had his representatives reach out to the Department of Justice to determine whether he or his foundation, the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation (LDF), ever received any gifts or charitable donations directly or indirectly related to these parties, and if so, to return those gifts or donations as soon as possible," the statement says.

"All contact was initiated by Mr DiCaprio and LDF," it states.

The production company, Red Granite Pictures, has said that to its knowledge none of the money it received was illegitimate and that it had done nothing wrong.

Set up in 1998, LDF supports a range of environmental projects.

In August, the *Hollywood Reporter* published a story alleging that the actor's foundation had benefited to the tune of some US\$2 million from cash and in-kind donations made by a Malaysian financier, who was named in the US lawsuit as being involved in the creation of the 1MDB fund.

The actor, who won an Oscar in 2016 for his role in 'The Revenant', is also a United Nations climate change 'messenger of peace', but he has come under pressure from some environmental activists to step down from the role following the 1MDB scandal.

DiCaprio's representatives said in yesterday's statement that he had refrained from speaking about the matter until now "out of respect for (the) ongoing investigation, which has touched many charities, hospitals and individuals, who may have been unwitting

recipients of funds now in question".

- *Reuters*

Copyright © 1999-2016 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd

Source: <http://www.malysiakini.com/news/359587>