

'Probe Taib over RM3bil family fortune'
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Sarawak Chief Minister Abdul Taib Mahmud has been accused of 'corruption and abuse of power' in a complaint lodged with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) in Putrajaya this morning.

In lodging the report, Sarawakians John Brian Anthony, Ting Cek Ming and Kung Chin Chin appear to have piled pressure on the chief minister (left) and his family to explain how they have accumulated wealth.

The crux of the complaint is based on posts in the blog sarawakreport.org, that the family commands an international business empire worth "in excess of RM3 billion".

MACC senior officer Ranjit Singh received the report, which follows a similar complaint to the commission's Kuching office yesterday by one Ahmad Nazib Johari.

The complainants have been advised that they may be called in later to provide statements for what the commission reportedly termed "a big case".

"We were assured that they will investigate the case and advised us to write to the director of investigations to get updates," Ting said.

He also said the process went smoothly, unlike last week when he had attempted to file the complaint with Ahmad and one James Wong.

"This time we came with typewritten copies of our report and had the MACC officer acknowledge receipt on our copy to make sure that no changes will be made to the complaint," he said.

Ting, Wong and Ahmad Nazib had to retract their complaint last week when Selangor MACC officers refused to provide them with a copy of the report, which was handwritten in the commission's report book.

'Abuse of power'

According to sarawakreport.org, Taib and his family have built an international business empire through 'dubious means'.

Their acquisitions are said to include a luxury hotel in Australia and prime commercial property in Canada.

The blog, operated by "concerned citizens", has also questioned the family's involvement in Sarawak's largest conglomerate Cahya Mata Sarawak (CMS) Bhd.

It has claimed that 85 percent of the CMS shares belong to Taib's family and close friends, who allegedly acquired the stake when the government-linked company was privatised.

This has led to allegations of abuse of power.

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