

Najib Must Take Immediate Action Against Taib
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KUCHING - Baru Bian today wants Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak to take immediate action on the report published in the Sarawak Report that information about Sarawak Chief Minister Taib Mahmud had been forwarded by the President of the Swiss Federation Micheline Calmy-Rey to its regulatory body (the Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority) for investigation.

Baru in his statement quoted the Swiss President as saying that Switzerland views seriously the concerns that have been raised internationally about Taib's alleged profiteering from timber corruption and are unhappy that such assets may have been invested in Switzerland.

"For the President of a foreign country to acknowledge that her government has begun investigation into Taib Mahmud's assets is indeed an indictment on the credibility of the Chief Minister. It is also, no less, a huge blot that dents Malaysia's image internationally which Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife, self-styled First Lady Rosmah Mansor, have been desperately trying to advance over the last year with their unending international PR exercises and tours to curry global favour." he said.

Baru added that Taib for months had stubbornly refused to respond to the numerous reports at the whistle-blower website alleging his corruption. He said that the MACC, despite receiving a profusion of reports from the public and NGOs, had not been able to give a clear answer on what it is doing about such reports.

The Sarawak PKR Chief said that it is now evident that silence is no longer an option and it is incumbent upon the Chief Minister to respond to these reports publicly. The MACC, he said must also stop hedging before it loses all credibility with the public and Najib cannot anymore ignore the elephant in the room.

"Sarawak Report further states that Calmy-Rey also makes clear that under international money-laundering agreements, it is up to the Malaysian Government to make a request to Switzerland to freeze potentially illegal assets. On the other hand the Swiss President specifically refers to the recent freezing of assets belonging to the leaders of Libya, Egypt and Tunisia, which have been possible under existing provisions of Swiss legislation." the statement continues.

Baru also questions whether the Prime Minister will finally do the right thing in light of the international investigation and the implicit request by the Swiss authorities to freeze Taib's assets.

"The onus is now on Najib to redeem Malaysia's tarnished image abroad. I reiterate that elegant silence on the part of Taib and the MACC has ceased to be an option as Malaysia's reputation is now in question and heavily at stake. The public demands answers and they demand them now. More so we the people of Sarawak." he said.

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