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PM's lawyers demand answers from Wall Street Journal

PETALING JAYA: Lawyers for the Prime Minister are demanding that *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) state clearly whether it believes he had misappropriated US\$700mil (RM2.6bil) as implied in its articles.

Dow Jones & Company, the publisher of the US-based newspaper, has two weeks to reply "yes" or "no", according to a letter dated July

8 from the lawyers.

In the letter, law firm Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak want confirmation from the Dow Jones board of directors on the newspaper's stand.

"We are instructed to procure your position because the articles collectively suggest that you are unsure of the original source of the money and what happened to

the money.

"On the other hand, the general gist of the articles creates a clear impression that our client has misappropriated about US\$700mil belonging to 1MDB."

The firm was referring to the WSJ articles "Malaysia Leader's Accounts Probed" and "Scandal in Malaysia" published on July 2 and

6, respectively.

Lawyer Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun said they also wanted WSJ to state the source of the money and whether the funds were deposited into Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's personal bank accounts.

After scrutinising the articles, the lawyers concluded that the reports made reference to vague facts and

companies, he said.

He said the articles claimed Najib was under probe over the 1MDB controversy and references were made to indirect transactions implicating him with 1MDB-linked companies.

A spokesman for Dow Jones, when contacted yesterday, said: "We stand behind our fair and accurate coverage of this evolving story."

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