

Newspaper	THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
Date	21 JULY 2016

# U.S. Seeks Assets Tied to 1MDB

WSJ - 21/7/2016

More than \$1 billion in seizures sought for hotels, artwork and rights to a movie

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The U.S. Justice Department filed civil-forfeiture complaints against more than \$1 billion of assets allegedly acquired using funds misappropriated from a

Malaysian economic development fund, according to court filings made public Wednesday.

The assets, which were purchased by the stepson of Malaysia's prime minister and people connected to the fund, include high-end real estate and hotel properties in New York City, Los Angeles and London, artwork by Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet, and a \$35 million jet. They also include rights to the 2013 film "The Wolf of Wall Street," the

filings say.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak isn't named in filings, which were viewed by The Wall Street Journal. But there is reference 32 times in the complaint to "Malaysian Official 1" who received hundreds of millions of dollars in funds allegedly siphoned from 1Malaysia Development Bhd., according to the filings.

A person with direct knowledge of the investigation said "Malaysian Official 1" is Mr.

Najib. Descriptions of the official in the filings include information about Mr. Najib's position at 1MDB along with other identifying details.

The Journal reported last year how Mr. Najib played a key role in decisions at the fund—which Mr. Najib launched in 2009 to stimulate Malaysia's economy—including issuing bonds and firing auditors.

Mr. Najib, who has denied wrongdoing, repeatedly has

played down troubles at 1MDB, which has little to show for its economic-development efforts despite raising \$13 billion. He has said 1MDB's real problem was an overreliance on debt that it has struggled to pay back and that "attacks" by opposition politicians hurt a planned public offering.

His administration has criticized the Journal, claiming its articles about 1MDB were false and based on "sources that  
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