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Enemies politicising 1MDB issue, says Najib

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DoJ CIVIL SUIT:
It is actually a business issue, PM tells Indonesian TV

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the action taken by the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) does not involve him, the government or Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) directly.

He said issues concerning 1MDB had been politicised by "certain enemies".

"This is actually a business issue, but was made into a political issue," he said in an exclusive interview with Indonesian television station Metro TV recently.

Najib said the government would cooperate in any international investigation pertaining to 1MDB.

"I want to say that what was done by the DoJ recently does not involve me, or the Malaysian government, or 1MDB directly.

"The suit named five people. This is not a criminal suit, but a civil suit.

"The 1MDB issue is a business issue but it has been politicised by certain enemies," he said.

He said the motive of those capitalising on the 1MDB issue was clear.

"There are some who are not in favour of my leadership and they are trying to bring me down."

On money transferred into his personal bank account, Najib said it was a gift from the Saudi royalty.

Najib said the 1MDB issue would not destabilise the government.

This, he said, was evident in Umno's big win in the Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections in June.

Asked about his relationship with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Najib said the former prime minister was "obsessed about control".

"Dr Mahathir strongly supported

me in the past and has been my mentor, but he has a controlling tendency," Najib said, adding that Dr Mahathir wanted to play a role in state decisions even though he was no longer prime minister.

On terror attacks, Najib said he viewed terrorism as a real threat to the world and shared the steps taken to combat terrorism in Malaysia.

He said several approaches could be used to tackle terrorism.

"Firstly, we need to acknowledge that it is a real threat.

"For instance, as pre-emptive measures, we must detain individuals before they can commit an act of violence if there is already substantial evidence about their plans.

"However, it's not an executive power... We present evidence before the courts. They are the ones who decide whether or not a person is a threat to society," Najib said in calling on Indonesian leaders to emulate similar moves.

He said the negative impact from terror attacks was too serious to be

ignored.

Citing what happened in Tunisia, Najib said its tourism industry was destroyed after 31 British holiday-makers were killed in two terror attacks last year.

Najib also supported the revision of Indonesia's anti-terrorism law that was being deliberated on by the country's leaders.

He agreed that the Indonesian military also had a role to play in the war against terror.

On diplomatic relations between both countries, Najib said Malaysia-Indonesia bilateral ties were harmonious.

"I see the moves made by President (Joko Widodo) to open investment opportunities and build infrastructure facilities, including public housing, can all be done by Malaysia," he said.

"We see Indonesia as more investor-friendly today. With the business opportunities arising from the decisions of the government of President Jokowi, Malaysian companies can also take part (in infrastructure). I see very good prospects." **Additional reporting by Siti Nursuraya Ali**

I want to say that what was done by the (United States Department of Justice) recently does not involve me, or the Malaysian government, or 1MDB directly. The suit named five people. This is not a criminal suit, but a civil suit.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak