

Newspaper	New Straits Times
Date	14 January 2016

PRIME NEWS

PM: Ling should've referred back to me

NST
-14/1/2016

DONATION ISSUE:

He acted in bad faith to tarnish my image, says Najib

HIDIR REDUAN
KUALA LUMPUR
hidirreduan@nst.com.my

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said elder statesman Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik should have referred back to him before making any statement on the RM2.6 billion donation issue.

In a copy of Najib's reply to Dr Ling's defence made available to the media yesterday, the prime minister said the latter, as the longest-serving former MCA president, should not have uttered allegedly defamatory words without first referring to him.

"It is clear that the defendant (Dr Ling) had acted recklessly with mala fide (bad faith) to tarnish the image and reputation of the plaintiff (Najib)," said the court papers.

Najib said Dr Ling's allegedly defamatory statement was based on reports and hearsay, and not the outcome of investigations by competent and authorised agencies, like the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and police.

He said Dr Ling's raising of the defence of fair comment could not succeed, as the latter had failed to make clear which part of his statement was fair comment and which was fact.

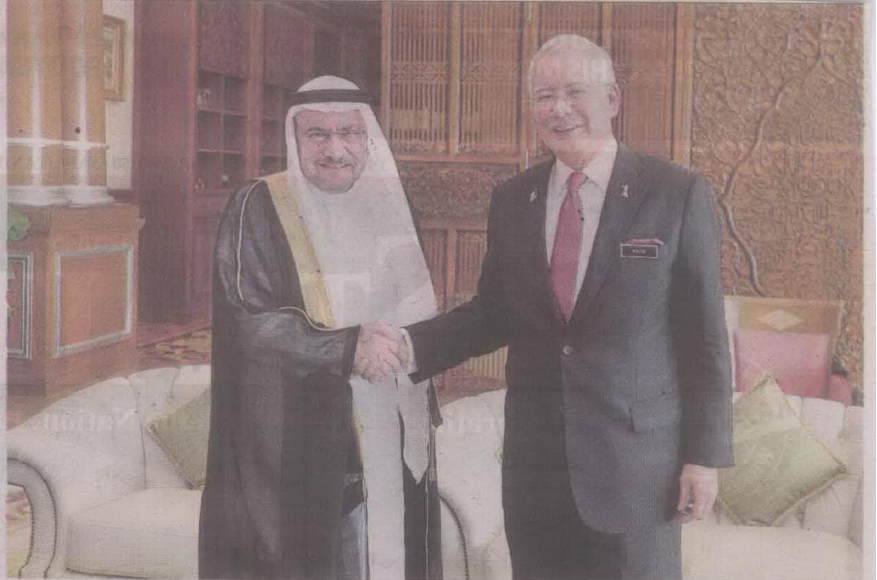
Najib was referring to a portion of Dr Ling's statement that said the words uttered by the latter constituted fair comment on a matter of public interest.

"As a Malaysian citizen, the plaintiff, who holds the posts of prime minister, finance minister, (Pekan) member of parliament and community leader, has the right to defend his dignity and reputation by instituting an action against the slanderer, as provided by the law," said the document.

Najib said despite Dr Ling's right to criticise, if the criticism went beyond the limit of the law, and damaged and tarnished his image and reputation, it would lead to legal consequences.

He also dismissed as mere opinion Dr Ling's defence that it was not proper for him to receive the donation through a personal bank account, as Parliament, at the time of the suit, had not passed any law preventing political recipients from receiving donations in such a way.

Najib's counsel, Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun, yesterday said he would meet his client to discuss the possibility of attending a mediation



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation secretary-general Tan Sri Iyad Ameen Madani at the former's office in Putrajaya yesterday. Bernama pic

OIC sec-gen calls on Najib

NST - 14/1/2016

PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday received a courtesy call from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) secretary-general Tan Sri Iyad Ameen Madani at Perdana Putra here.

It was Madani's second visit to Malaysia, with the first being in April last year.

Madani, accompanied by a delegation, spent nearly an hour with Najib at the latter's office.

He said he briefed Najib on current issues and discussions in OIC, as Malaysia was a key member of the organisation.

session with Dr Ling in a bid to settle the suit.

"I have received instruction (from Najib) to find ways to mediate," said Hafarizam, referencing a media statement by Dr Ling's counsel,

"I took the opportunity to brief His Excellency (Najib) on my visit to Bangkok, Thailand (from Jan 10 to 12).

"We also talked about the status of the peace agreement in southern Philippines, which was brokered by Malaysia.

"The agreement, which Malaysia worked hard for, is being derailed at the Philippine Congress.

"It could end up with there being no agreement, which would cause the peace process to fail."

He said this could force the issue back to where it started and might

result in an eruption in violence. "We are hopeful that the Philippine Congress realises that this is a chance for peace, and they should not let it get away."

Madani said he briefed Najib on the emergency ministerial meeting to be held on Jan 21 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and the attack on the Saudi embassy in Teheran, Iran.

"We also talked about OIC holding a summit on Palestine.

"These were some of the main issues talked about, and we listened to Najib's guidance and views on each issue." Bernama

Ranjit Singh, saying his client's receptiveness to any mediation bid required the plaintiff's presence in mediation meetings.

On Oct 27 last year, Najib, who is also Umno president, filed the suit

over Dr Ling's statement in the article "MCA's Liong Sik joins call for Najib's ouster for allegedly putting people's money in his own pocket", which was uploaded by news portal Malay Mail Online 24 days earlier.