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Najib refuses to speculate

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But it's not common for DoJ to give so much publicity to civil suit, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister has questioned the high profile manner in which the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) released its forfeiture lawsuits over funds allegedly siphoned from 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Speaking at a media conference after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is party president, said the council was briefed on the issue.

He said the supreme council was told that it was not common for the DoJ to give so much publicity to a civil suit, including holding a media conference to announce it.

"Usually if it is a civil suit, it will be low key but this time they released it in a big way," he said.

Asked why he thought so much publicity was being given to this particular case, Najib said he did not want to speculate.



Meeting of minds: Najib with his deputy Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Wanita chief Tan Sri Sharizat Abdul Jalil at the press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

"I think we have some opinion about it, but I wouldn't want to speculate publicly," he added.

Asked whether he felt the DoJ lawsuit merely compiled information from news reports on the matter, Najib said: "On the surface, it would appear that it came from

certain sources; but we will observe the proceedings that will follow."

On whether he felt that the DoJ suit was one-sided, Najib said the lawsuit did not contain any clarification from parties in Malaysia.

"There is no (view from) 1MDB, Government of Malaysia, Attorney-

General. And there is no explanation from those named," he said.

Asked about a person described as Malaysian Official One in the report, Najib said: "We noted that, and our position on this has already been explained to the public."

Najib said the Government viewed the matter seriously and reiterated his stand that those who have been named must clear themselves in line with their rights through the process which they could undertake.

He said the core issue was in resolving the dispute between 1MDB, International Petroleum Investment Company and Aabar Investments PJS, which he hoped could be conducted according to the process so that the position of the assets and funds transferred could be determined.

On the police report by Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Azwan Harun, alleging a conspiracy to topple the Prime Minister, Najib said he could not comment as the report was lodged by an individual.