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# IMDB Probe Sees Bank Lapses

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SINGAPORE—Singapore said a wide-ranging money-laundering investigation into flows of money connected with Malaysian state investment fund IMDB has found serious lapses at three major banks that in some cases included “undue delay in detecting and reporting suspicious transactions.”

The announcement from the central bank, police and attorney-general’s chambers came a day after the U.S. Justice Department filed a civil lawsuit seeking to seize more than US\$1 billion in assets that the U.S. filing said were

the result of misappropriations from Malaysia Development Bhd., as the state fund is formally known.

Singapore authorities also said Thursday that as part of the investigation they have seized bank accounts and placed restrictions on property transactions. Authorities said the affected assets total a combined 240 million Singapore dollars (US\$177 million), and that half of that total relates to bank accounts and properties that belong to Malaysian financier Jho Low and his immediate family.

Mr. Low, a confidant of Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who set up IMDB in 2009 to spur development in

the country, couldn’t immediately be reached for comment. Mr. Low has previously denied any wrongdoing.

The Wall Street Journal reported more than a year ago that hundreds of millions of dollars that originated with IMDB flowed into Mr. Najib’s personal bank account.

Mr. Najib has also denied any wrongdoing. The Malaysian attorney general cleared him of wrongdoing, saying the funds that went into Mr. Najib’s account were a legal political donation from Saudi Arabia and that most of the money was returned.

Thursday’s statement marks the first time Singapore authorities have named IMDB

when detailing the outcome of a financial-offenses investigation that began early last year.

The statement provided fresh details on the magnitude of a probe that prosecutors here have previously described as one of the largest-ever money-laundering investigations in Singapore.

Singapore on Thursday said that the central bank’s preliminary findings from an examination of IMDB-related fund flows at local **DBS Bank Ltd.**, and the Singapore units of **Standard Chartered PLC** and **UBS Group AG**, showed that  
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