



'Man on the Run' director Cassius Michael Kim says former prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is seeking to silence unpleasant truths about himself and his actions over the 1MDB scandal. FILE PIC

CALL TO REMOVE 'MAN ON THE RUN'

'NAJIB'S ANTICS A BID TO HIDE 1MDB TRUTHS'

Desperate actions by those who seek to avoid 1MDB accountability, says film director

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Director of the *Man on the Run* documentary yesterday described Datuk Seri Najib Razak's recent antics as an attempt to conceal the unpleasant truths about him and his involvement in the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) financial scandal.

Cassius Michael Kim said this when asked to comment on the former prime minister's letter to Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, asking the ministry to remove the documentary from Netflix.

"In America, we believe in a free press.

"It fits the pattern of Najib that once again, he seeks to silence those who would reveal unpleasant truths about him and his actions. Even if the words come out of his own mouth.

"All of this is a distraction... desperate actions by desperate people, who once again, seek to avoid accountability at the expense of the Malaysian people.

"I can only hope the Malaysian courts and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission see through their fear mongering and refuse cynicism.

"I hope they can uphold the rights of a free and independent press and ensure that the principle of integrity and transparency prevail," he said when contacted by the *New Straits Times* yesterday.

Kim, who is based in the United States, also refuted Najib's lead counsel Tan Sri Muhammad Shafee Abdullah's recent contention that the documentary was politically crafted from the US, aided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Sarawak Report.

"Accusations of conspiracy are the last resort of the desperate, who seek to obfuscate their transgressions by painting fearful portraits of imagined enemies.

"Let me make this clear, there has been zero aid provided to me or the film by either the FBI or Sarawak Report, or anyone else that the lawyer might wish to implicate or involve in his fantasies.

"The Sarawak Report editor Clare Rewcastle-Brown appears in the documentary, but there was zero coordination or collaboration between The Smoking Section (production team) and Sarawak Report.

"Just like Najib, Rewcastle-Brown appeared in the documentary because she understood that I was seeking to tell the whole story of the 1MDB saga and that it could not be told without her perspective," he added.

Shafee in a letter said the documentary contained several statements which could be deemed as contempt due to the ongoing 1MDB financial scandal involving the former prime minister at the High Court here.

The senior lawyer also highlighted several excerpts from the

documentary in the letter to substantiate his contention.

He cited statements from various individuals in the documentary, including former attorney-general Tan Sri Tommy Thomas, former US ambassador to Malaysia John R. Malott, Rewcastle-Brown and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

On Jan 8, Shafee, at the outset of Najib's trial, told the presiding judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah that the show was highly subjudice and contemptuous.

Shafee said Najib had instructed him to file a contempt proceeding against Thomas and file a legal action against Rewcastle-Brown for her statements in the documentary.

Later, during a press conference, Shafee claimed that Najib was misled into agreeing to the interview.

The lawyer claimed that Najib was given a different narrative, indicating that the documentary was supposedly about fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho or Jho Low.

However, Kim, when contacted on Jan 10, dismissed Shafee's allegation by stating that another member of Najib's legal team lawyer Muhammad Farhan Shafee and aide Ahmad Lutfi Azhar were present during the whole session.

Kim said the production team was very transparent about their intention when they engaged with the former Pekan member of parliament for the interview in 2022. The one hour and 38 minute documentary premiered on Netflix last week.

It currently holds second place in the streaming platform's top 10 movies list.