

PM: Go to MACC with confidential financial information on corruption
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KUALA LUMPUR: Anyone in possession of confidential financial information relating to corruption must hand it over to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission instead of releasing it to the public, which will run them foul of the law, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

Referring to the charge against PKR director of strategy Rafizi Ramli, who claimed trial on Wednesday for revealing confidential banking details linked to the National Feedlot Corporation (NFC) scandal, Najib said the Banking and Financial Institutions Act (Bafia) was in place to protect the integrity and credibility of the financial system.

"Anyone who has an account in the financial system must feel protected otherwise people will not put money in the system," Najib told reporters after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting here.

He said that unless there was confidence in the confidentiality of information in the financial sector, investors, including those from overseas, would not invest in Malaysia.

"That would be against public interest which is to ensure that the financial system cannot be compromised," said Najib.

Although legislation such as Bafia was meant to ensure that the financial system was secure, he said it did not mean that the government condoned any act of corruption or money laundering.

"You can always reveal the information to the appropriate authority," said Najib.

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