

Sack Taib or abolish MACC, Pakatan tells Najib
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 6 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak must force Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud to resign for refusing to cooperate with the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) or dissolve the agency, Pakatan Rakyat (PR) lawmakers said today.

The leaders pointed out that the MACC would be rendered pointless if politicians accused of graft could enjoy legal immunity and refuse to cooperate with the anti-graft authority at their whim.

“Caretaker Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should show his commitment towards fighting corruption by either demanding the resignation of Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud or else abolish the MACC.

“Malaysians are now waiting to see whether Najib dares to punish and act against Abdul Taib (picture) for such disgraceful remarks,” DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said in a statement here.

The long-serving Sarawak chief minister was cast into the international spotlight last month after an environmental activist group released a video documentary alleging the state Barisan Nasional (BN) chief to have received millions of ringgit in kickbacks over land deals that have denuded the Borneo state.

In a shocking response to news that the MACC would be probing him, Abdul Taib said he will not co-operate with the authorities as he believes the government body to be “naughty” and “dishonest” in its investigations.

“They don’t deserve my co-operation because they have been naughty... and they have not been honest,” Abdul Taib told reporters after attending a BN leadership meeting here two days ago.

Lim pointed out that Abdul Taib’s refusal was a serious breach of duty and statutory obligation.

Under section 47 and 48 of the MACC Act 2009, refusal to cooperate with MACC is an offence punishable by a maximum fine of RM10,000 or imprisonment of 2 years or both.

Inaction in Taib’s case would also strengthen accusations of double standards against the Najib government, Lim added.

“Datuk Seri Najib must get Tan Sri Abdul Taib to resign if Najib is committed to rule of law, transparency, accountability and fighting corruption as he is an embarrassment not only to BN but also to Sarawak and Malaysia.

“If Tan Sri Abdul Taib does not resign, this clearly shows that there are double-standards, with the Sarawak Chief Minister enjoying legal immunity from any wrongdoing which would be applied on ordinary Malaysians,” he said.

When contacted, PAS vice-president Datuk Mahfuz Omar agreed with Lim’s suggestion to dissolve the MACC if Najib did not dare to compel the agency to act against Abdul Taib.

He suggested that the prime minister was "afraid" to take action against the powerful Sarawak Chief Minister, who has served for over three decades in his post.

"Does Najib value the 27 parliamentary seats in Sarawak so much to the point that Taib cannot be touched?"

"Didn't the prime minister swear to uphold the rule of law?" he told The Malaysian Insider.

PKR vice president Chua Tian Chang said Taib's brazen response to MACC mirrored Najib's alleged fear of the chief minister, who he said was brave enough to do what he liked.

He took a swipe at Najib's promises of transformation, calling it a mere "act" of the prime minister.

Abdul Taib has maintained his innocence, saying that his cousins and others implicated in the video expose were promoting themselves to be his agents to solicit favours.

He also dismissed the impact of the video, which was released by Global Witness (GW) last month, in Election 2013.

The video, titled "Inside Malaysia's Shadow State", showed dealings by GW's undercover investigators with Abdul Taib's cousins and several other intermediaries to acquire thousands of hectares of forest land, which the group said would displace thousands of indigenous people living there.

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