

Liang shies from challenge but stands by allegations against Anwar
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The Barisan Nasional MP who accused opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim of having RM322 million in offshore accounts is not prepared to repeat the allegation outside the house - where he will not be given protection from the law.

Liang Teck Meng, who is the Simpang Renggam member of parliament, told The Malaysian Insider today that he is not going to take up the challenge to repeat the allegation, casting doubts on his "revelation" in Parliament on Tuesday.

Liang in debating the King's speech, told the House that Anwar had more than RM332 million in 20 bank accounts in Israel, China, United States and Singapore. He claimed that his information was based on a Wikileaks cable.

In an immediate response, opposition MPs challenged Liang to repeat the allegations outside the House where he will not be immune to legal suits.

"Why should I respond? They are diverting the focus of my speech. I was talking about national security," he said today.

He also insisted that he was standing by what he said and will not retract the allegations.

Liang had handed over the documents on the bank accounts to the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, saying that he was leaving it to the government to investigate the allegations.

Yesterday, Liang stood his ground when Dewan Rakyat speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia asked him to clarify his allegations against Anwar after Pakatan Rakyat MPs demanded that he retract the statement and apologise.

Liang of Gerakan told the House that he will only do so if investigations found no elements of foreign intervention involved as he had claimed.

On Wednesday, Pakatan Rakyat MP Jeff Ooi filed a motion seeking to refer Liang to the parliamentary committee of rights and privileges for abusing his parliamentary privilege.

Anwar had said there was no basis in the allegations and claimed that there was no such entry in Wikileaks.

"It was started by Umno bloggers and played up by Utusan Malaysia," he said. - July 5, 2013.

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