

Rafizi: PM interfered in RM100mil R&D grant

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Oleh Alyaa Azhar

The grant given to a private firm involves public funds, says PKR strategy director.

PETALING JAYA: PKR strategy director Rafizi Ramli today alleged that the Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak was instrumental in awarding a RM100 million research and development grant to a private company.

The grant, available under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry (Mosti), was awarded to the private firm, NSE Resources Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, he claimed.

Speaking at the press conference, he released a letter dated Jan 21, 2014 signed by the Mosti minister Ewon Ebin to the company, which granted the fund to the firm.

The letter referred to another letter from the Prime Minister's Department dated Nov 21, 2013 on the grant application to build a gasifier steam boiler plant in order to make Malaysia a 'premier renewable energy based in sustainable wood chip biomass'.

Rafizi, however, pointed out that the grant given to the company for the commercial project involved public funds.

The exorbitant amount also goes against the procedure of grant disbursement under Mosti, Rafizi said.

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