

DAP calls for MACC to probe official statement on Najib's family inheritance
The Malaysian Insider
March 3, 2015

The DAP wants the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to launch a full investigation into the official statement by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) that attributed Datuk Seri Najib Razak and his wife's spendings to his inheritance.

DAP veteran leader Lim Kit Siang called on the commission to start a full-scale probe after Umno-controlled daily Utusan Malaysia reported yesterday that Najib himself dismissed talk about the extent of the inheritance left behind by his father, the late prime minister Tun Abdul Razak Hussein.

"What then is one to make of the PMO statement in the New York Times," the DAP parliamentary leader said.

The statement, which was in response to a New York Times article that focused on businessman Jho Low but touched on spending on luxury properties, by Najib's step-son Riza Aziz, and on jewellery purchases by his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor; stated that "neither any money spent on travel, nor any jewellery purchases, nor the alleged contents of any safes are unusual for a person of the prime minister's position, responsibilities and legacy family assets."

Lim, who is Gelang Patah MP, questioned what the "alleged contents of any safes" stated in the PMO statement were.

"Can MACC initiate full-scale investigations into Najib or must the commission first get the 'green light' from Najib himself?"

"Is MACC a mere 'paper tiger'?" Lim said in a statement today.

Najib's four younger brothers – Johari, Nizam, Nazim and Nazir – had last week jointly issued a rare private statement to the media expressing their worry that the name of their father, who was known for his frugality, would be tarnished by such talks of family assets.

"We are extremely concerned that some recent news articles and postings have given rise to speculation as to the nature and extent of the inheritance that our late father, Abdul Razak, had left behind.

"We wish to put on record that Abdul Razak was a highly-principled man, well known to all who knew him for his frugality and utmost integrity and any statement or inference to the contrary would be totally false and misleading to his memory and to his service and sacrifices for the nation.

"We take issue with anyone who taints his memory, whatever the motive. We would also like to add that our whole family is united on this issue."

Lim questioned why the statement by the brothers was not carried in the mainstream media and why it took Najib almost a week before he endorsed the statement.

The veteran opposition politician also said he knew Razak as a man of frugality and integrity.

"I had on no occasion in my years in Parliament from 1971 to 1976, when Razak was the prime minister, to raise any issue to cast doubt on his integrity."

Lim said those who worked closely with him also wrote of Razak's frugality and integrity in the special collection of essays compiled by the Yayasan Tun Razak, entitled "Tun Abdul Razak – A Personal Portrait", which was published in 2006 to mark the 30th anniversary of his death.

In the book, Razak's political secretary and close confidante Tan Sri Abdullah Ahmad said the former died a "relatively poor man because he did not succumb to the temptations of money".

The wife of Razak's private secretary Datuk Shafee Yahaya, Datin Kalsom Taib, who was also a long-time family friend, recounted how Razak would not let his wife change the curtains and re-upholster the furniture in the living area of their official residence, Sri Taman.

The residence with simple furnishing, she said, reflected Razak's thrift and respect for public funds.

Lim noted that Najib himself had testified to his father's frugality and integrity in his essay "A Hard Act to Follow" which he contributed in the collection of essays.

"To my father, a good public image was vital and public opinion mattered a great deal to him. Sometimes it is a very difficult act to follow. Whatever he did, he did not want it to be misinterpreted or to be seen that he was abusing his position. Of course, I am talking in the context of his time," Najib had written in his essay. – March 3, 2015.

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