

Najib must explain Jho Low's role in 1MDB, says DAP
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak should come clean on the role of Malaysian businessman Low Taek Jho in the scandal involving 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), said DAP, pointing out that without Low, there would be no 1MDB or its RM42 billion financial scandal.

Party parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said that in the past six years, there has been great pretence by Putrajaya and Datuk Seri Najib Razak – as if Low did not exist or did not have any role to influence the prime minister's financial decisions on the debt-ridden state fund.

He added that until now, neither Najib nor Second Finance Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah or any other top government official have acknowledged the role or influence of the man popularly known as Jho Low.

Lim pointed out that Low had, in fact, told the world that Najib was the final approving authority for any 1MDB deal, transaction and investment, although this was not fully realised at the time.

In an interview with business monthly Euromoney in April, Low had complained that he was made the scapegoat in the 1MDB scandal.

"Are you telling me the prime minister doesn't make his own decisions? That the ministry, the minister of finance, who is the prime minister – and there are only two to three people in the Finance Ministry that sign off on shareholder resolutions under law – that none of them... that they just signed without evaluating it?" Low said.

In the interview Low had also asked: "Did the people supposed to be responsible for decision-making (at 1MDB) suddenly decide to absolve all their responsibilities and then create this PR campaign with me as the focus of it?"

"No one seems to ask the question who is the ultimate decision-maker on 1MDB? No one asks that. No one ever asks about the shareholder's role."

Lim said today that in his statements, Low was clearly hinting it was Najib who was the final approving authority.

He said no one was asking the right question about who was the ultimate decision-maker on 1MDB, adding that the poser could not be evaded any longer.

"Najib should end all pretences and own up to the truth. He should exorcise the haunting presence of Jho Low in the 1MDB scandal by giving a full account to Parliament of the latter's role and influence in the nation's biggest financial scandal," said Lim, who is also Gelang Patah MP.

He said that Husni in his TV1 interview on 1MDB on Wednesday, had said that he did not want to glamorise Low when asked about the latter's involvement in the state fund.

But Lim said that Husni should know that the businessman is already a top attraction, given the five-part feature by New York Times in February on the influx of global money that had fuelled the city's high-end real estate boom.

As such, Lim said that the issue was not about Low's glamour but the government's accountability and transparency in the RM42 billion scandal, in particular Low's role and influence. – June 7, 2015.

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