

**Mastermind Behind Allegations Against Country's Leadership, Government – Hishammuddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein believes there is a mastermind behind the allegations on the channeling of funds linked to 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) into the personal back accounts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

This, he said, was because of the continuous attacks being made at the country's leadership and the government lately.

However, he regarded it as a norm in a borderless world.

Hishammuddin told this to reporters before joining staff of the Defence Ministry for the breaking-of-fast here Wednesday.

On Friday, the Wall Street Journal published a report claiming that about US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) from 1MDB fund was channeled into Najib's personal bank accounts.

Following the allegation, a task force consisting of Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Bank Negara Malaysia Governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar and Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Chief Commissioner Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed was formed to probe the matter.

Hishammuddin said the people should keep calm and not be emotional and to wait for the task force to complete its investigation.

"In the end, the truth will prevail, so we should not be swayed by baseless accusations," he added.

He also advised the people against making speculation.

Today, Najib was reported to have instructed his lawyers at the legal firm of Messrs Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak to send a letter to The Wall Street Journal seeking confirmation of its position on the allegations against him in its articles before taking legal action.

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