

Najib Instructs His Lawyers To Scrutinise WSJ Article
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has instructed Messrs Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak to scrutinise an article published by The Wall Street Journal entitled "Malaysian Leader's Accounts Probed".

Acting on behalf of the firm, Wan Azmir Wan Majid, in a statement said the article dated July 2, was tainted with numerous allegations against Najib which involved several companies and transactions.

He said combing through the said article, they (the lawyers) had concluded that the language has, intentionally or otherwise, made reference to several facts and companies which were vaguely described.

He said the article by WSJ was issued, published and circulated through the WSJ's web portal www.wsj.com.

"Firstly, we have been intructed to identify the parties involved in the authorship, distribution and publishing of the said article, for the purpose of naming the appropriate parties in any potential action. This requires deliberation and research as the article does not reflect extensive details for service of any legal letter or court documents.

"Secondly, another issue of concern is that of jurisdiction as the publication originates from United States of America and is accessible worldwide. We have been also instructed that a local presence of WSJ is also available and we are pursuing further clarification and details on this matter," he said.

Wan Azmir said since the article involved several parties, the lawyers had also been instructed to consider a joint action or an action against, in the event evidence shows a conspiracy against their client.

"Kindly note that the companies named as conspirators with our client, in the article are International Petroleum Investment Co, Tanore Finance Corp, SRC International Sdn Bhd and Ihsan Perdana Sdn Bhd," he said.

The lawyer further stated that several names of companies and organisations had only been referred to as the related companies or companies belonging to certain organisations or companies.

He said the sources or destinations or the alleged transactions had not been disclosed.

"This, either intentionally or otherwise, has caused the need for futher identifications of facts. Once he has identified the parties, the jurisdiction and involvement of conspirators or parties which had also been innocently imputed in the article, we can then proceed to

address the third issue," explained Wan Azmir.

He further said the third issue was to tackle all possible or plausible legal remedies for their client.

He said this includes but was not limited to an action of defamation, further tortuous actions and remedies including any statutory violations by WSJ and related companies and (if any) conspirers.

The lawyer noted that this was not a straightforward legal action due to the national and international imputations.

"We have been instructed to identify facts and lay full facts before our client is able to proceed with further instructions," he said.

Wan Azmir said the purpose of the explanation was to avoid unnecessary objections by WSJ on the imputations that were made.

"Once our client has obtained all the necessary facts and the position of WSJ is ascertained, we have strict instructions to immediately exhaust all legal avenues and remedies," he said.

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