

**WSJ May Face Legal Action, Says PM's Lawyer**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 8 (Bernama) -- Dow Jones, the publisher of The Wall Street Journal which published two articles allegedly implicating Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in a US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) deal involving 1Malaysia Development Berhad, may face legal action.

Lawyer Wan Azmir Wan Majid from Messrs Hafarizam Wan & Aisha Mubarak, which is representing Najib, said when contacted that the publisher must respond to the law firm's letter seeking confirmation within 14 days.

"At this moment, the most important issue is WSJ's confirmation with regard to the alleged misappropriation of funds from 1MDB that it claimed our client was involved in," he said.

The two articles were published on July 2 and 6.

Wan Azmir said that should Dow Jones fail to respond to the letter within 14 days, the firm would send a letter of demand which it must reply within 14 days.

"Nevertheless, it is for our client to instruct us on the next course of action. What we are doing now is a normal process in any defamation suit," he said.

He said the suit could be filed anywhere, in Malaysia or the United States of America, depending on convenience.

He said three elements must be present in a defamation suit: the words complained of must be defamatory; the words complained of must refer to the plaintiff; and those statements must reach a third party.

"Delivery of the statements to a third party can be made orally or in writing. Because the WSJ's articles are also circulated through their portal or newspaper, this means that the third party that received them is in Malaysia.

"Hence why the action can be filed in Malaysia," he said.

On the appointment of lawyers by WSJ and reporters who wrote the articles, Wan Azmir said that if they had done so, it would facilitate communication between the two sides.

"It would enable us to communicate directly with them without having to refer to WSJ and the reporters concerned," he said.

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