

**Najib turning patriots into criminals, says DAP after probe initiated on 1MDB critics**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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Putrajaya is "turning patriots into criminals" as it guns for opposition politicians and The Edge Media group owner Tong Kooi Ong for their critical exposes of debt-ridden state fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB), DAP said.

DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said it was "mad" to think that exposes on scandals and wrongdoing involving government-linked entities or national leaders could be treated as an offence.

"Now, it would appear that madness has become a normality in certain circles in government," the Gelang Patah MP said in a statement today.

"I want to ask Datuk Seri Najib Razak: Mr. Prime Minister, what are you turning Malaysia into? Why do you want turn patriots into criminals?."

Lim was reacting to news that police are investigating opposition lawmakers Tony Pua (DAP-Petaling Jaya Utara) and Rafizi Ramli (PKR-Pandan), as well as Tong under Section 124 of the Penal Code.

Malaysiakini reported that the trio are being probed for allegedly committing activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy.

A police source told the news portal said that the investigation is linked with allegations that 1MDB documents were tampered with and fabricated as part of a plot to oust Najib.

Lim said today that Section 124 of the Penal Code on penalties for committing activities detrimental to parliamentary democracy could see Pua, Rafizi and Tong jailed for up to 20 years.

Pua was barred from leaving the country today when trying to board a flight to Indonesia, while Rafizi checked his travel status on the Immigration Department website and now suspects that he has been barred from traveling, too.

Tong is meanwhile reported to face a similar ban, according to Malaysiakini.

Pua and Rafizi were also named by former Sarawak Tribune editor Lester Melanyi in a video confession, in which he claimed the opposition lawmakers had worked hand in hand with Sarawak Report to tamper with and forge 1MDB documents.

The opposition duo have denied the claim and are planning legal action against Melanyi.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said earlier today that police

have recorded Melanyi's statement and may arrest those named in the video soon.

Whistleblower site Sarawak Report and The Edge have published many reports and exposes on 1MDB. The alleged wrongdoing, also taken up by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has called for Najib to step down.

Najib is finance minister and chairman of 1MDB's advisory board.

Sarawak Report and The Edge are accused of obtaining tampered data and using it in their exposes.

A Swiss national, Xavier Andre Justo who was a former PetroSaudi International director, is accused of stealing information about 1MDB for blackmail. He is also accused of tampering with the data.

Justo is alleged to have met with a DAP lawmaker, the owner of a Malaysian media group and others, to pass on the information to them. – July 22, 2015.

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