

1MDB denies channelling funds to Najib
The Malaysian Insider
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Troubled 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) today said that it had never given any funds to Datuk Seri Najib Razak, following reports by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) and Sarawak Report that billions were channelled to the prime minister's personal accounts.

In a statement, the state investment vehicle said that it was "highly irresponsible" of media outlets to suggest this, calling it a deliberate attempt to undermine the company which is already under criticism over its RM42 billion in debts.

"1MDB wishes to make clear that the company has never provided any funds to the prime minister. To suggest otherwise, as some media outlets have done, is highly irresponsible and a deliberate attempt to undermine the company," the company said.

WSJ and Sarawak Report said today that investigations into the debt-ridden fund allegedly uncovered billions of ringgit pumped into Najib's personal accounts.

Both quoted documents from the 1MDB probe currently carried out by the Malaysian government, with Sarawak Report saying that the attorney-general was also aware of the information.

WSJ said the documents showed that US\$700 million (RM2.67 billion) had been moved among government agencies, banks and entities linked to 1MDB before finally ending up in the prime minister's personal accounts in five separate deposits.

Sarawak Report said RM42 million had gone into Najib's accounts from SRC International Sdn Bhd, the Finance Ministry-owned company that had taken a RM4 billion loan from the Retirement Fund Incorporated (KWAP).

1MDB said today that it was "surprised" that the documents, which have yet to be verified, were being used to substantiate the allegations against it, following recent revelations that tampered documents were used to accuse the company of its misdeeds.

"Recent revelations have raised concerns about the veracity of a number of 'leaked' documents which certain media outlets and online blogs such as Sarawak Report have used to mislead the public and justify spurious allegations against the company and the government," it said.

"We are therefore surprised that documents such as these, whose existence and authenticity have not been publicly verified, continue to be used as a basis to create new unsubstantiated allegations against 1MDB."

This comes after the arrest of former PetroSaudi International (PSI) director Xavier Andre Justo by Thai authorities last Monday for blackmail and extortion over confidential information regarding PetroSaudi's 2009 joint venture with 1MDB.

Claims that he had tampered with emails taken from PetroSaudi were made by pro-government newspaper the New Straits Times, which quoted an unnamed spokesperson from private cyber security firm Protection Group International (PGI).

PGI reportedly said initial investigations into the leaked emails showed that Justo had tampered with them to paint a negative picture of 1MDB.

Following that, the Home Ministry issued a show-cause letter to The Edge after minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi singled out and warned the publication for "false reporting" on the 1MDB issue.

Zahid said that the tampered emails formed the basis of Sarawak Report's 1MDB exposes, which in turn were published by The Edge.

1MDB is currently the subject of inquiries by a number of authorities, including the auditor-general, Bank Negara, police and the bipartisan Public Accounts Committee.

"These authorities have all the relevant information, and we request all parties to await the outcome of their findings before making further allegations and rushing to judgment," the company said today. – July 3, 2015.

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