

Najib must resign if he can't dispute claims in WSJ, Guan Eng tells reporters

The Malaysian Insider

July 3, 2015

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Datuk Seri Najib Razak should resign if he fails to explain claims in the Wall Street Journal that billions of ringgit were channelled to his personal bank accounts, Lim Guan Eng says today.

The DAP secretary-general said this was the first time he was asking the prime minister to resign, following the expose by the business daily, because of the severity of the allegation.

"I have never asked him to resign. We hope he can respond to the serious allegation.

"Najib should file a suit in the US against the publication to clear his name if necessary. But first, he must explain. Failing which, he has to resign.

"This is an allegation of unprecedented scope and shocking in scale... before this, there has never been such allegations against a prime minister," he told reporters today in Juru after launching the Taman Kekal Pengeluaran Makanan.

The WSJ had based the story on documents from a government probe.

This marked the first time Najib has been directly linked to the probe into state investment fund 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Najib heads its board of advisers and has been under growing political pressure over the fund, which has chalked up RM42 billion debts.

The government probe, WSJ reported, showed what investigators believe to be the movement of cash among government agencies, banks and companies linked to 1MDB before it ended up in Najib's personal accounts.

WSJ said it reviewed bank transfer forms and flow charts put together by government investigators which reflected their understanding of the cash flow.

It remained unclear where the money came from and what happened to the cash funnelled into Najib's account.

Meanwhile, PKR said it was concerned over the reports and urged the prime minister to sue WSJ to clear his name.

Vice-president Tian Chua said Najib should have no issues doing this, given that he had sued other media outlets over so-called inaccurate reporting, such as Malaysiakini, Media Rakyat and PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli.

He added that lately, Putrajaya had also warned business newspaper The Edge over its supposedly inaccurate reporting.

"So if the prime minister is confident enough, he should sue Wall Street Journal for inaccurate reporting to clear his name," Tian Chua said at a press conference in Petaling Jaya today.

WSJ claimed today that investigations into the debt-ridden 1MDB had allegedly uncovered billions of ringgit channelled into Najib's personal accounts.

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

Tian Chua questioned if there would be suppression of information, given that the source of information was Malaysian investigators.

"But the least the prime minister can do now is to go on leave until MACC investigates him," Tian Chua said referring to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission.

PKR's Alor Setar MP Gooi Hsiao Leung, however, said Najib should resign, given that the report revealed that one of the transfers of monies into his account was done two months before the 13th general election.

He said this indicated that the money was used to fund the GE13 campaign.

"I agree that investigations must be done immediately but I also think the PM has no option but to resign.

"(Nearly) 52% of the people voted for a change in government but were cheated through election fraud," Gooi added.– July 3, 2015.

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