

AmBank should state if Najib has accounts, says PKR after WSJ report
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A PKR lawmaker has called on AmBank to clarify if Datuk Seri Najib Razak does indeed have personal accounts with it as alleged by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) in its expose yesterday, in order to clear the prime minister's name.

PKR secretary-general Rafizi Ramli said only with the bank's clarification, could the people believe Najib, who has since denied the allegations in the WSJ article, which claimed that billions were channelled into his bank accounts.

"I am sure if Datuk Seri Najib Razak has nothing to hide, the best way to put a stop to the attacks on his credibility is to allow the bank (or any other bank in the country) to reveal every account that he had ever opened since becoming the prime minister in 2009," Rafizi said in a statement today.

"If it is proven that the account in AmBank, as revealed by WSJ and Sarawak Report, does not exist, then Datuk Seri Najib Razak can easily put a stop to this latest issue."

Rafizi also called on Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) to use its powers under the Financial Services Act to stop the controversy to confirm if the account numbers revealed in the article existed and belonged to the prime minister.

"If they do not exist, this matter does not have to be prolonged.

"But if they do, then an investigation has to be done immediately and Datuk Seri Najib Razak has to go on leave and an acting prime minister can take over the administration of the federal government while the investigation is ongoing."

This comes in the wake of claims by The Wall Street Journal and Sarawak Report that investigations into the debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) had allegedly uncovered billions of ringgit pumped into Najib's personal accounts.

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

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

The Prime Minister's Office in a statement earlier yesterday called the WSJ expose a political sabotage and work of "certain individuals" out to undermine the confidence in the economy, tarnish the name of the government and remove a democratically elected prime minister.

Najib also later refuted the allegations, saying that until now, there was no evidence

to back the allegations, saying instead the claims were based on leaked documents and unnamed investigators.

Rebutting the prime minister, WSJ defended its expose, saying that the report was based on investigations and solid documentation.

In an interview with CNBC, WSJ Hong Kong bureau chief Ken Brown said they had been very careful with the report, given the nature that it is against a country's leader.

Rafizi, who is also PKR vice-president, drew on his statement in March, when he had claimed that the departure of three top AmBank officers from the company was related to a deal with the controversial 1MDB. – July 4, 2015.

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