

Just say 'yes' or 'no' to WSJ report, Kit Siang tells Najib
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DAP has taken Datuk Seri Najib Razak to task for not saying a simple "yes" or "no" to the Wall Street Journal's report that investigations into 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) had allegedly uncovered billions of ringgit pumped into the prime minister's personal accounts.

Unsatisfied with Najib's rebuttal last night, DAP parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said Najib was being "ambiguous" in his denial.

"Why can't Najib just say 'yes' or 'no' to the grave WSJ allegation that almost US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) were deposited into Najib's personal accounts before the 13th general election.

"WSJ had reported that documents show that 'by far the largest transactions were two deposits of US\$620 million and US\$61 million in March 2013, during a heated election campaign in Malaysia'.

"Is Najib denying that the two deposits of US\$620 million and US\$61 million were deposited into his personal bank accounts in March 2013, or he is admitting that there were such deposits but he had never taken the funds for personal gain – whatever Najib's definition of personal gain?" Lim said in a statement today.

Lim said Najib's refusal to outright deny each of WSJ's allegations suggested it was because he was guilty, and was resorting to "turning and twisting" his statements to defend himself.

"Najib should come out with a straightforward statement denying that there had been two deposits of US\$620 million and US\$61 million into his personal account in March 2013."

The Gelang Patah MP also wanted to know why Najib himself has not announced that he may take legal action against WSJ.

"Raising red flags is Najib's threat to take legal action against WSJ – why was it not stated by Najib himself but by his political secretary?

"And why only threat, instead of immediate legal action against WSJ."

He also asked whether the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission had seen the documents cited by WSJ, or "is it just totally irrelevant in the larger scheme of things".

Lim said Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gan Patail must also explain to the country why he allegedly did not take any action to protect the government's integrity, when he had allegedly seen the documents on the prime minister.

"Malaysia cannot be rudderless, with a prime minister accused of serious and even heinous prime ministerial misconduct who is not prepared to do anything, apart from uttering 'sweet nothings', to establish his innocence and integrity.

"Under the circumstances, the deputy prime minister and the Cabinet must act, and must be prepared even to stage a 'mutiny', by convening an emergency meeting of Parliament next week.

"If Najib cannot secure a confidence vote in the emergency meeting of Parliament, he should gracefully resign as prime minister."

The documents cited by WSJ and Sarawak Report show that US\$700 million 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 exposé 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, and they were only based on leaked documents and unnamed investigators.

Rebutting the prime minister, WSJ defended its exposé, 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. – July 4, 2015.

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