

WSJ report baseless, PM has right to take legal action, says Khairy
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The allegations made by Wall Street Journal (WSJ) against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak that billions of ringgit were transferred into his personal accounts were baseless and unsubstantiated, said Umno minister Khairy Jamaluddin, despite the daily defending its article.

"They can say it comes from whatever documents but as long as it's unsubstantiated and baseless allegation, the prime minister reserves the right to initiate legal action should he decide to do so," the youth and sports minister said after attending a forum in Bangi this morning.

WSJ has said the report was based on investigations and solid documentation.

In an interview with CNBC, the business daily's 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.

"We are very careful and we believe the investigation and documents we have are solid and come from reliable investigation and not a political investigation."

He added that the documents they possessed had been shared with the Attorney-General and had also been seen by the prime minister.

When asked about the documents, Khairy said he has not seen them.

"No. As I said these are allegations as of yet substantiated. He (Najib) already issued very clear statement yesterday (denying the allegations)," he said.

The burden of proof, he added, lies with the accuser, not the accused.

"This is a very serious allegation and the logical conclusion is that there should be legal action. As I said, the PM reserves the right to do so."

The prime minister's political secretary, Datuk Muhammad Khairun Aseh, told Sinar Harian that the PM would take legal action against WSJ as the article was defamatory.

Khairun was quoted saying that the report by WSJ was based on dubious and dubious sources.

The article which was published yesterday, reported that Malaysian investigators probing into 1Malaysia Development Bhd's (1MDB) investments allegedly traced nearly US\$700 million worth of deposits from companies linked to the state investment arm going into what they believe was Najib's personal bank accounts.

Brown, when asked about the response from the Prime Minister's Office, told CNBC in the interview that it had merely stated that the prime minister had not taken any funds for personal use. – July 4, 2015.

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