

No surprise if Najib hauled to court, says veteran journalist
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak could be taken to court, said a veteran journalist, based on the previous corruption cases of high-level politicians and the huge burden of proof against the prime minister.

Responding to wide scepticism that Najib would be let off the hook even though a special task force is investigating allegations against him, Datuk Kadir Jasin said former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was jailed for abuse of power although there was not one sen involved in that case.

"The possibility (of Najib being prosecuted) is made more clear when the allegation by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) that he had US\$681 million (RM2.6 billion) in his accounts has not been denied, either by him or the bank, AmBank Berhad.

"Whether the account is active, not active or has been closed, is not the issue. The question is Najib once had RM2.6 billion in the account," Kadir said in the latest posting of his blog The Scribe.

Till today, Najib has not denied that the account bearing his name and with savings of RM2.6 billion had existed but had been closed down not long after the 2013 general election, Kadir said.

"If the account did not exist, why not he or AmBank deny that such an account under the name of Mohd Najib had ever existed? What is more important is not the account's existence but from where did the USD\$681 million come from and what was it used for?"

The Attorney-General's Chambers, Bank Negara, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the police are currently probing allegations that up to USD\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) of 1MDB-related money had been funnelled into accounts bearing Najib's name.

In its July 3 report, the WSJ had revealed that the amount had been allegedly credited into those accounts in several transactions between 2013 and 2015.

Najib has refuted the allegations and said it was a political ploy engineered by his opponents, including former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Kadir said statements by the taskforce over the past few days showed that they were serious in looking into the allegations and that there was proof of Najib's involvement.

"This was not some simple media statement. It was signed by Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Bank Negara Governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Khalid Abu Bakar and MACC chief Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed.

"This strengthens the case that the accounts named by the WSJ exist," Kadir wrote.

Yesterday's joint statement by the heads of all these agencies that they had frozen six bank accounts, Kadir wrote, showed that they did not want to hide any longer.

To further back his argument that Najib could be prosecuted, Kadir then listed several past cases of high level politicians who had been taken to court or removed from office due to corruption.

These include former ministers and chief ministers such as Education and Health minister Abdul Rahman Talib in 1964, Perak menteri besar Ahmad Said in 1970, Housing minister Khaw Kai Boh in 1970, former Selangor menteri besar Datuk Harun Idris in the 1977.

Besides Anwar, other former ministers that have been hauled to court over the previous two decades include Land and Cooperatives Development minister Tan Sri Kasitah Gadam, Transport minister Tun Dr Ling Liong Sik and Selangor menteri besar Dr Mohd Khir Toyo.

"So the possibility that Najib will be brought to court is not out of the ordinary. It's just that there has not been a prime minister who has been dragged to court over criminal allegations." – July 8, 2015.

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