

**Misstep for Najib in explaining task force's scope, says PAS**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
**July 9, 2015**

PAS said today that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had bungled when explaining the scope of the special task force set up to investigate claims that funds had been channelled into his personal accounts.

Party deputy president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said that by doing so, Najib as the person accused in the probe had invited the perception that the special task force was not an independent entity.

"He made a mistake when he himself explained the scope of the investigations of the special task force.

"His statement invites the perception that the special task force is not independent, under orders or reporting the investigations to him... This is not right and not good for Najib's efforts in clearing his name.

"This action is even worse than the fact that the four individuals heading the probe – Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chairman Tan Sri Abu Kassim Mohamed and Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz – are working under him," the PAS leader said in a statement.

He said that PAS once again urged Najib to go on leave pending investigations, to ensure that the probe currently underway would be seen as "clean".

Najib on his blog yesterday said that he had directed his lawyers to send a letter to The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), requesting that it explain the expose on the billions allegedly pumped into his accounts.

"The Special Task Force is carrying out an investigation to determine whether the accusations by The Wall Street Journal that I had taken 1MDB's funds for personal use are substantiated.

"The investigation must take into account the authenticity of the documents that were released to support the publications' actions," said Najib.

He also accused WSJ of having "malicious intent" and being in cahoots with certain quarters in the country to bring him down.

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

Najib has so far refuted the allegations, saying they are a political ploy engineered by

his opponents, including former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The New York-based publication insists however that its investigation was based on solid documentation.

The task force said in a statement on Tuesday that six bank accounts connected to the allegations had been frozen.

Apart from freezing the bank accounts, the task force also seized documents linked to 17 accounts at two banks for further investigation.

The task force said the freeze and seizures were related to the non-compliance of Bank Negara rules by the said banks.

Many, including opposition politicians, civil society leaders and the public, have called on Najib to go on leave pending investigations but retired attorney-general Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman says there is no legal requirement compelling the prime minister to do so.

Tuan Ibrahim said although Najib had repeatedly stressed that he had never taken funds from the controversial 1MDB for his personal gain, he had failed to answer two issues.

"There are two focus issues that have yet to be answered: were there 1MDB funds that were channelled through the accounts that are allegedly his? If yes, for whose interests, if Najib is telling the truth that it was not for his own gain?"

He said the special task force should not only investigate if the funds had been pumped into Najib's accounts but should also determine where the funds had next been channelled from those accounts.

"We hope that the investigations will be completed as soon as possible to ensure that the people and the country will not continue to worry.

"Besides raiding 1MDB offices, PAS also suggests that 1MDB's accounts be frozen to help speed up investigations," he said. – July 9, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/again-pas-tells-najib-to-go-on-leave-pending-probe-into-wsj-claims>