

Najib using political funding reforms to divert focus from 1MDB probe, DAP says
The Malaysian Insider
August 3, 2015
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DAP today said accusations that it was against political funding reforms was a "naked attempt" by Putrajaya to divert attention from controversies surrounding 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Its secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said various issues had been played up of late to distract the people from 1MDB's alleged scandal and added that there would be many more to come.

Lim said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had never approached the opposition party about political funding reforms.

"I would hate to call him a liar but he never approached us. What he said was not true because he never approached us," Lim told reporters at his Komtar office today.

"I don't want to waste time diverting the attention from 1MDB. Deal with 1MDB first, then we can talk about political funding. Don't let them talk about political funding now and run from the 1MDB issue.

"We have never said we are not willing to but he never approached us. We never refused because we were never asked. How could he say DAP shot down the proposal?" Lim, who is also Penang chief minister, said.

On Saturday, Najib challenged opposition parties to declare how their parties were funded. He said BN would reveal their funding if the opposition would do so as well, singling out DAP which he said had opposed the proposal.

Najib has been accused of receiving US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) in his personal accounts, the largest amount of RM42 million allegedly transferred shortly before the last general election in May 2013. These claims were first reported by The Wall Street Journal, which said it obtained the information from Malaysian investigators.

Lim also rejected an allegation that DAP had received funding from American business magnate George Soros, whom former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had blamed for causing the Asian Financial Crisis in the late 1990s.

Last weekend, BN strategic communications director Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan was reported in the press alleging that opposition parties in Malaysia received funds from overseas, including from personalities like currency speculator Soros.

"If only it was true that we got money from Soros. You (reporters) want us to go down to his level and respond to a claim like that?"

"We want to focus on 1MDB," Lim said. – August 3, 2015.

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