

**Najib's RM2.6 billion donation claim is bullshit, says Dr Mahathir**  
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's claim that the US\$700 million (RM2.67 billion) deposited into his accounts was a donation from the Middle East is "bullshit", Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The former prime minister said the whole world had had a good laugh at the explanation, which the majority of Malaysians did not buy.

"Arabs are generous, but not that generous. I could not raise even a single dollar from them for the Malaysian International Islamic University or for the Oxford Islamic Centre.

"This claim that Arabs donated billions is what people describe as hogwash or bullshit. Certainly I don't believe it and neither can the majority of Malaysians if we go by the comments on the social media. The world had a good laugh," wrote Dr Mahathir in his latest blog post today.

The retired statesman added that Najib's claim about the money being used to fund his election campaign was similarly absurd, since he himself needed less than RM10 million for each of the national polls he had presided over during his 22 years as prime minister.

"Why do you need RM2.6 billion plus or RM2,600 million? Is it to bribe politicians and civil servants, or to rig the elections? That would not be right, much less legal.

"Whatever, to me 2 billion plus for elections in Malaysia by any party is wrong, even if no limit is put on election expenses," Dr Mahathir said.

He said Najib had only come up with the excuse because he was unable to deny The Wall Street Journal's (WSJ) report that funds from companies linked to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) were deposited into his personal accounts.

But he wonder who would "donate" such an extravagant amount, adding that even US President Barack Obama was unable to raise that much for his election campaign.

Dr Mahathir again accused Najib and his wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, of living far beyond their means, and highlighted their alleged shopping expeditions abroad as well as their daughter's recent wedding.

He said the scale of the wedding surpassed that of the rulers, and should have cost Najib tens of millions of ringgit, far beyond the RM20,000 Najib took home each month as prime minister.

"Where did the money come from!" asked Dr Mahathir.

After WSJ first reported its allegations last month, Najib initially denied taking funds from 1MDB for personal gain, but did not directly address the fund transfers.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) then confirmed the fund transfers last week, saying they were political donations from a Middle Eastern donor.

Najib immediately went into damage control, spending the past few days explaining to Umno members that the funds were solely for the party's interests.

Najib's supporters in the party have also been speaking up, blogging and going on television to explain that there was nothing wrong with receiving political donations, and that the party president was allowed to hold such funds in trust on behalf of Umno. – August 10, 2015.

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