

DAP invites Najib to meet its donors at fundraiser
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DAP has invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak to a party fundraising dinner tomorrow to see how the opposition engages donors, amid a verbal spat over transparency of political donations.

The party's national publicity secretary, Tony Pua, said two seats were reserved for the prime minister and his wife to see "first hand" the party's donors and how it raised funds.

"We will show the prime minister that when 3,000 Malaysians attend our dinner, they willingly pay and contribute to attend.

"This is in complete contrast to Barisan Nasional dinners which are completely free, augmented by lucky draws of hundreds of lucrative prizes," Pua, who is also Petaling Jaya Utara MP, said in a press statement ahead of DAP's fundraising dinner at the Petaling Jaya City Council's Civic Hall tomorrow.

Najib earlier this month said he was ready to declare Umno's sources of funding if DAP would do the same.

Other Umno leaders had also challenged DAP to reveal their donors after the opposition had criticised Najib for lack of transparency about the RM2.6 billion deposited in his personal accounts.

Najib is under pressure to come clean about the money in his accounts, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal last month as having come from companies linked to troubled state investor 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said the funds were a donation from a Middle Eastern person whose identity they have withheld. The anti-graft agency said it would ask the prime minister for an explanation.

Najib had blamed DAP for rejecting efforts to legislate transparency in political funding in 2009, which Pua said was untrue.

"The prime minister must be joking. DAP has never been consulted or showed the draft on any legislation before they are tabled in Parliament, much less a political funding bill.

"We are shocked to discover that DAP is accused of being so powerful that we are able to oppose or reject the political funding bill which the Prime Minister had wanted to table.

"Let us say outright, DAP has never objected to any political funding bill and will support all bills which will promote transparency and accountability," Pua said.

The issue of RM2.6 billion in the prime minister's accounts have renewed calls for legislation of political funding.

While Najib and Umno have said that he, as the party's president, had the right to hold funds in trust for the party in his personal accounts, a cabinet minister has said that it was better for such funds to be deposited into party accounts. – August 11, 2015.

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