

Perak DAP wants Najib to go on leave over ringgit's slide
The Malaysian Insider
August 11, 2015
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The sharp drop in the ringgit to the US dollar is a signal that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak should go on leave pending investigations into scandals linked to him, says Perak DAP chairman Nga Kor Ming.

Nga said central bank Bank Negara's international reserves had dropped by 31.24% since March last year, from RM436.9 billion to RM364.7 billion.

"This sharp drop in such a short span of time has never before occurred since the country's independence in 1957.

"We urge Najib to go on leave pending investigations into the scandals over debt-laden state fund 1 Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and the RM2.6 billion fund in his account," Nga, who is also Taiping MP, told reporters in Ipoh today.

Last Friday, data from Bank Negara showed that international reserves amounted to US\$96.7 billion (RM380.6 billion) as of July 31 from US\$100.5 billion on July 15.

Nga said reserves were at a dangerously low and worrying level, and gave a negative signal to foreign investors.

"Based on Bloomberg reports, some RM11 billion worth of foreign investments have been withdrawn from the domestic market since March.

"Najib needs to go on leave to prevent hampering of investigations as the relevant agencies involved, whether the Attorney-General's Chambers, police or the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), are subject to the purview of institutions under the prime minister," he said.

Recently, the attorney-general was replaced amid a probe into 1MDB, and police questioned seven MACC officers for allegedly leaking official information about investigations into the state investor to third parties.

Nga added that if the scandals linked to Najib were not solved, all Malaysians would have to pay the price.

"The prices of imported goods are expected to increase with the ringgit slump and Malaysians will have to bear a bigger burden in their day-to-day spending," he said.

Nga said he would urge all 59 state assemblymen to agree that Najib should go on leave.

He said this would force the Perak Barisan Nasional-led government to state clearly

whether they were still in support of Najib or not.

"Instead of filing a motion which could be easily rejected by the speaker, I will say this in my adjournment speech as it is compulsory for the state government representative to answer.

"Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir must state whether he agrees or not. If he does, I will thank him. If not, he must give his reasons," said Nga. – August 11, 2015.

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