

Arrest Rahman Dahlan over claims of plot to criminalise Najib, says DAP

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By Elizabeth Zachariah

Police should arrest Umno minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan for allegedly claiming there was a plot to "criminalise" the prime minister and boot him out of office, DAP said today.

Its parliamentary leader Lim Kit Siang said Rahman should be arrested for publishing "false news" under the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 for what he had said unless he can prove that there was such a plot.

Lim was commenting on Rahman's interview in The Star yesterday where the minister had said that Najib had to "take people out" when an alleged draft charge sheet against him emerged.

Rahman, who is the Barisan Nasional (BN) strategic communications director, also reminded the public that Attorney-General (A-G) Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali stated the alleged charge sheet could be a plot to criminalise Najib.

"In his interview, the BN strategic communications director is guilty of publishing two false news unless he can prove their truth and veracity," Lim said in a press conference at the DAP headquarters in Kuala Lumpur today.

"Firstly, that there was an attempted coup against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak by criminalising him to topple him from office.

"Secondly, that there was already a coup and unconstitutional grab for power by the then Attorney-General Tan Sri Gani Patail, who was heading the special task force investigating 1MDB (1Malaysia Development Berhad) and the RM2.6 billion deposit into Najib's personal accounts, and was investigating the prime minister in order to criminalise him."

These, Lim said, were serious claims by Rahman, who is also minister of urban wellbeing, housing and local government, and should be considered as false news under the said law unless they could be proven.

"Given that scenario, what would you do? You would take drastic action, wouldn't you? Okay, take these people out first so that things will get back to normalcy and see what will happen next.

"If you could appreciate that scenario, then you would understand the flurry of action taken by the PM," Rahman was quoted as saying in the interview.

Lim, who is also Gelang Patah MP, said Rahman had painted a picture of a serious

"cloak and dagger" power play in Putrajaya last month.

Noting that Rahman was also the first to talk about a plot to criminalise Najib, the DAP veteran lawmaker said that the minister's protests of innocence and claims that he was not privy to information about the "struggle for power" do not wash.

"He has first used the term on July 15 when he introduced the video of the discredited journalist Lester Melanyi, claiming there was a plot to topple Najib as PM.

"The police must move in immediately, interview Rahman as the first suspect as well as others including the prime minister, the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, former DPM Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as well as others who had been 'taken out' in utter disregard of the due process of law like the former A-G Tan Sri Gani Patail," he said.

Lim added that Najib should also come out and clear the air "once and for all". – August 17, 2015.

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