

Najib to announce more funds for BN lawmakers
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday promised to allocate more funds for Barisan Nasional (BN) MPs next year.

"Before it was RM1 million, now it is RM5 million but next year there will be more. I will make an announcement about what we can do," the Umno president was quoted by Bernama as saying at the party's Gerik division meeting in Perak.

It would be the third time Najib increased allocations for BN lawmakers to carry out development purposes in their constituencies.

In 2010, he added RM500,000 to the existing RM1 million for every BN parliamentarian. This was later increased to RM5 million.

BN currently has 134 MPs while opposition parties under the now-defunct Pakatan Rakyat have 88 seats in the Dewan Rakyat.

The same allocation is however not given to opposition MPs.

Earlier at the Kepala Batas Umno division meeting, Najib defended the RM2.6 billion in his personal bank accounts, saying there was no need to investigate the money's origins as it was the party president's prerogative.

He said he had never questioned Umno funds held by his predecessor Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I never questioned Pak Lah. I knew it was a matter for the party president (to take care of). As soon as the elections come there is enough money (to fund it), that's all we want to know... how the president got the fund, who donated it to to him, is the president's prerogative," Bernama quoted him as saying.

"Why should it be questioned during my time as president of the party?" he said.

Najib has been under pressure to reveal the source of the money, which the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission has said was political donation and not linked to troubled state firm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Yesterday, Kuantan Umno division chief Wan Adnan Wan Mamat reportedly said that the money was Saudi Arabia's gift to Najib for championing Sunni Islam and fighting militant group Isis.

"Not only Malaysia received the donation from Saudi Arabia, two or three more countries also received, including the Muslim community in the Philippines and (Southern) Thailand," he told Sinar Harian. – August 17, 2015.

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