

BN backbenchers optimistic Putrajaya's explanation on RM2.6 billion well-received

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The Barisan Nasional Backbenchers' Club (BNBBC) is confident that the government's explanation of the RM2.6 billion that was deposited into the personal accounts of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, have been well-received by the people.

Its chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Samad said the "unpleasant" rumours that had cropped up from the issue were just hyped through social media.

"This is what we want to stress. From the social media viewpoint – false news, you need to have an explanation," he said when asked about the people's acceptance of the government's campaign to explain the money.

Shahrir, however, said that he had no idea that the RM2.6 billion was donated to Najib as an appreciation to Malaysia for "championing Islam" and fighting militant group Isis.

Umno Kuantan division chief Datuk Seri Wan Adnan Wan Mamat had said previously the money, that was deposited into Najib's accounts, had come from Saudi Arabia and was in appreciation of Malaysia's efforts to combat Isis.

Wan Adnan claimed Najib said this to 146 Umno divisional leaders at a meeting last Wednesday, where the prime minister had also alleged that Muslims in the Philippines and the south of Thailand had also received monetary aid from the Middle Eastern nation.

"I don't know who commented. I don't quite understand so I cannot make statements. Who made this statement?" Shahrir asked reporters today.

Najib has come under fire over the RM2.6 billion from both the opposition and within his own party, especially his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, whom he axed from the Cabinet late last month.

The prime minister recently said he had been cleared by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) of corruption over the US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) in his personal accounts, which he reiterated was on behalf of Umno, of which he is president, and not for his personal use.

The anti-graft agency had announced that the money was not from state strategic investor 1Malaysia Development Berhad, but instead came from a Middle Eastern donor.

Allegations of RM2.6 billion in Najib's accounts first surfaced in a report by The Wall

Street Journal on July 2, citing documents from Malaysian investigators. – August 18, 2015.

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