

**Najib to seek another legal opinion before decision to sue WSJ**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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**By V. Anbalagan**

Datuk Seri Najib Razak will make a decision next month whether to institute a legal suit against The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) over its report that US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) was deposited in his personal bank accounts, his lawyer Datuk Mohd Hafarizam Harun said.

The lawyer said he had obtained a legal opinion overseas and would get another before advising his client.

"I will be leaving overseas this week to get the expert legal opinion to advise my client (Najib) and for him to make a decision," he told The Malaysian Insider.

However, Hafarizam declined to reveal the country to which he would be going to meet the foreign lawyers.

"If everything goes well, I should be able to meet the client over the next two or three weeks and advise him accordingly and then act on instruction," he said.

On August 6, Hafarizam said the prime minister had given instructions on obtaining a second legal opinion overseas following the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's (MACC) announcement three days earlier that the money came from donors, and not from state-owned strategic investor 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

MACC's statement was the first official confirmation that the funds had indeed gone to the prime minister's accounts, which have since been closed.

MACC however did not identify the Middle Eastern donor, nor did it disclose how the RM2.6 billion was spent.

Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi last Saturday said the money came from a Middle Eastern "family" and that he had met the aides of this family. He said they had made the donation to support Barisan Nasional's Sunni government and its stand against terrorism.

Najib previously said he had been "cleared of corruption" since MACC had confirmed the money did not come from 1MDB.

But the anti-graft agency yesterday issued another statement, saying its investigation into the RM2.6 billion donation was still ongoing.

It added that it had only stated, via press statements dated August 3 and 5, that the money was a donation from unknown Middle-Eastern donors and not from 1MDB.

MACC also said that its probe into a former 1MDB subsidiary, SRC International Sdn

Bhd, was still ongoing.

SRC International is owned by the Finance Ministry, which Najib heads. Najib is also chairman of 1MDB's advisory board.

Last month, WSJ refused to respond to a request from Najib's lawyers for a clarification as to whether the paper's report on the money in Najib's accounts meant that they were accusing Najib of misappropriation of funds.

WSJ and its publisher, Dow Jones & Company, instead said that they stood by the news report (July 2) and a subsequent opinion piece (July 6), which they added were clear enough and based on documents sourced from Malaysian investigators.

However, Malaysian lawyers have said Najib must act against WSJ as soon as possible as his reputation is at stake.

In Malaysia, the prime minister has filed defamation suits against news portal Malaysiakini, Pandan MP Rafizi Ramli, Mediarakyat portal owner Chan Chee Kong, Petaling Jaya MP Tony Pua, PAS organ Harakahdaily and Taiping MP Nga Kor Ming. – August 24, 2015.

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