

Donations to Umno depend on president's abilities, says party leader
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By KC Nazari

The amount of funds received by Umno from donors depended on its president's fundraising abilities, Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, said in response to criticism of the RM2.6 billion in the prime minister's accounts.

The Pasir Salak MP said Umno members received in good faith such donations as a sign that donors believed in the party's goals.

"How much he receives depends on his wisdom and how much donors are willing to give, OK-lah.

"We accept in good faith. It is support for the party because of our agenda and struggle, (donors) support us because of that," said the deputy agriculture minister when officiating the Ampang Umno Women's wing delegates meeting today.

His comments come as Najib, who is also prime minister, is under scrutiny for the US\$700 million transferred to his accounts between 2013 and early this year.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has said the funds were from a Middle Eastern donor and not from debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Asked whether the Supreme Council was informed about the money's transfer into Najib's accounts, Tajuddin said internal party matters were not to be disclosed to others.

But he said the prime minister's personal accounts were held in trust for the party.

"Political parties cannot trade or be in business to earn money. So where do our funds come from? They come from donations and contributions.

"The prime minister, as party president, is the party's trustee. As such there should be no question why the funds had gone to his personal accounts. Those accounts are trust accounts, not for his own use," Tajuddin said.

Opposition politicians and other critics, however, have questioned why the admission that the massive sum of money was a donation, had come so late, and why Najib could not explain it sooner.

Najib had only denied taking funds from 1MDB for personal again, but never directly addressed the fund transfers that were first reported by The Wall Street Journal on July 2.

Najib also sacked Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy prime minister, and party vice-president Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal, after both openly

questioned him over debt-ridden 1MDB. – August 9, 2015.

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