

The Edge not involved in any conspiracy to topple PM, paper's bosses say
The Malaysian Insider
Sept 7, 2015

The Edge Media Group and its staff were not involved in any political conspiracy to allegedly topple prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, the company said in a statement today.

The media company's chairman Datuk Tong Kooi Ong and publisher and CEO Ho Kay Tat said they did not have any political agenda when its publications The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily, published articles on state owned investment firm 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"We wish to reiterate that The Edge Media Group and ourselves were and are not involved in any political conspiracy.

"We have been publishing numerous articles on 1MDB since 2013 when it became apparent it was facing financial difficulties.

"As a business media, our interest in 1MDB was purely to uncover what happened at 1MDB and the various financial and business dealings it undertook since its inception in 2009.

"Anyone who have read our various exposes would know that we have never linked the prime minister or even the government in general to the problems at 1MDB.

"We had never given 1MDB a political spin in any of our articles.

"We pursued only corporate governance issues, and held the management, the board of directors and the various third parties which have had dealings with 1MDB accountable for what had happened, which should be the case with any corporate entity," they said in the statement.

The Edge's response follows a report in the New Straits Times today titled "Rewcastle-Brown: I will celebrate when 'Najib is Done'," on an alleged conspiracy to oust Najib that supposedly involved several politicians and Clare Rewcastle-Brown, the editor of UK based website Sarawak Report.

Both Tong and Ho were named in the English daily's front page blurb as being "implicated in this elaborate conspiracy to topple a democratically-elected prime minister".

Refuting the allegations from NST and by any other media or persons that they were part of a political conspiracy and that they had tampered with evidence related to 1MDB, both Tong and Ho warned that they would take legal action against those who continued to make unfounded allegations against them and the media group.

The Home Ministry had suspended the publishing permits of The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily for three months from July 27, on grounds that the publications' reports on 1MDB was "prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to public order, security or likely to alarm public opinion or is likely to be prejudicial to public and national interest".

The High Court today heard The Edge Media Group judicial application to challenge the suspension, where The Edge's lawyer told the court that suspension was illegal. – September 7, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/the-edge-not-involved-in-any-conspiracy-to-topple-pm-papers-bosses-say>