

**WSJ lost all semblance of balanced reporting, says 1MDB
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The Wall Street Journal has lost all semblance of balanced reporting, state-owned investment firm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) said today, after the business newspaper's latest report that more than US\$1 billion had gone to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts.

The firm reiterated that it had never paid any funds to the prime minister's bank accounts, adding that this had been declared as well by various Malaysian authorities.

"Despite this, The Wall Street Journal continues to repeat the same disproven allegations," it said in a statement today.

1MDB said the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Malaysian attorney-general (A-G), and various reputable international publications had confirmed that the funds came from Saudi Arabia.

The firm has criticised WSJ for its past reports on its alleged links to scandals implicating Najib and today said that WSJ had never offered any conclusive evidence to support its claims.

"The only justification for their continued attacks (is) information that they claim to have obtained from unnamed and anonymous sources.

"This reliance on anonymous sources, who may or may not exist, betrays a lack of basic journalistic standards on the part of The Wall Street Journal and the fact that the publication has lost all semblance of balanced reporting," 1MDB said.

WSJ in its latest report cited "global investigators" who believed that much of the money deposited into Najib's account originated 1MDB.

The paper said the investigators' belief contradicted the Malaysian A-G's conclusion.

A-G Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali in January said that US\$681 million (RM2.6 billion) deposited to Najib's account was a legal donation from a member of Saudi Arabia's royal family and most of it was returned.

WSJ said "investigators in two other countries" agreed that most of the US\$681 million had been returned but were focused on a "crucial conduit, a firm with a name almost identical to that of a state-owned Abu Dhabi company called Aabar Investments PJS.

WSJ said 1MDB had reported paying more than US\$1 billion to Aabar but did not specify the company's full name, and from there, the money purportedly "made its way circuitously" to Najib's account.

The paper began its expose of Najib's personal bank accounts last July but had yet to be sued by the prime minister, who had denied all allegations. – March 1, 2016.

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