

## **PM demands apology, retraction from Tony Pua**

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**By Nawar Firdaws**

**Najib Razak's lawyer, in a letter of demand sent to Tony Pua today, says the MP's allegations are intended to disparage the PM's political standing.**

PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Najib Razak's lawyers have served Tony Pua of the DAP a letter of demand, asking the MP to apologise and retract a "defamatory" video he published on Facebook.

According to the letter, which was published on Pua's Facebook, Najib's lawyer Mohd Hafarizam Harun had stated that Pua's video implied that his client had abused his power and stolen the public's money.

"Contrary to your defamatory statements above, our client is not a tyrannical and oppressive kleptocrat, nor does he shun criticisms, neither is he a leader involved in corrupt practices, nor a leader who steals the people's monies.

"Accordingly, your entirely baseless and false allegations are intended to disparage our client's high political standing, immense goodwill, both local and international, and unblemished record of performance.

"In doing so, you were acting with malice prepense," said Hafarizam.

Hence, Najib is now demanding that Pua, among others, publish a written apology in two newspapers of his choice, and refrain from making further defamatory statements against the PM.

Failure to do so would result in the PM's lawyers instituting legal proceedings against the Petaling Jaya Utara MP.

On April 6, Pua uploaded a video of himself relaying the events leading up to the tabling of a motion on amendments to the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act 1965 by PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang.

He also commented on Dewan Rakyat speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia's decision to defer the debate on the motion.

Hafarizam had provided a short transcript of the video.

"(Allowing Hadi's motion) was actually designed as a political scheme to distract Malaysians from the crimes that the prime minister has committed, mainly the fact that

the prime minister has stolen billions of ringgit from 1MDB, a wholly owned subsidiary of the government of Malaysia.

“[...] We will, on the part of DAP, reject the private member’s bill brought forward by Marang, but the bigger agenda, ... that we should not lose sight of, is to bring down a kleptocratic administration led by the biggest thief of all in the country, Dato’ Sri Najib Razak,” said Pua, according to the letter of demand.

When contacted, Hafarizam confirmed that the letter was sent to Pua’s service centre at 4.45pm today.

“He (Pua) was not in but his assistant received it on his behalf.”

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