

IGP: Police won't interfere in US probe into 1MDB

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Khalid Abu Bakar says it is a civil case, not criminal, and, therefore, they will not be helping the FBI.

KUALA LUMPUR: Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar says police will not interfere in the investigation into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) to recover some US\$540 million in assets.

"That is a civil action. Police will not interfere," he told reporters at a function in Bukit Aman today.

Asked if the police would offer assistance to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to look into the case, which has been called a fraud scheme, he said: "No. Not in civil matters."

He was asked to comment on the DoJ's move to seize another US\$540 million in assets allegedly stolen from 1MDB and used to fund extravagant spending by certain people and their associates connected with 1MDB.

The assets include art works, jewellery and film rights that the DoJ says were purchased with funds misappropriated from 1MDB.

The US government also wants to seize a luxury yacht, the Equanimity.

This brings the total sought by the DoJ to US\$1.8 billion.

The move compounded cases launched last year in which Washington sought to confiscate more than US\$1 billion allegedly embezzled by businessmen with political connections in Malaysia, bringing the total amount US officials say was stolen to US\$4.5 billion.

1MDB has consistently denied any wrongdoing.

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