

I have that necklace too, says Jamal

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The Selangor Umno leader mocks opposition for believing the Department of Justice's allegation about the purchase of a necklace worth US\$27 million.

KUALA LUMPUR: Red Shirts leader Jamal Yunos today brandished a "diamond necklace" and a ring to members of the press in an attempt to mock the opposition for believing an allegation by the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) that money stolen from 1MDB was used to buy jewellery worth millions of dollars.

Jamal, famous for his outlandish political gimmicks, said he too owned a necklace and a ring worth tens of millions of dollars.

He said as such, the opposition should not easily believe claims by the DoJ that 1MDB funds were used to buy a 22-carat pink diamond pendant and necklace, worth US\$27.3 million (RM116 million), for the wife of "Malaysian Official 1" (MO1).

"If the DoJ wants to look for me, then this gives me an opportunity to travel to the United States," Jamal told a media conference.

While holding up the necklace and ring, Jamal claimed the jewellery pieces were valued at RM120 million and that he hoped to auction them off soon.

The DoJ filed civil lawsuits in an American court last Friday seeking to recover US\$540 million (RM2.3 billion) in assets believed to have been bought with money stolen from 1MDB.

The court filings were the latest attempt by the US government to seize assets linked to 1MDB, bringing the total sought by the DoJ to US\$1.8 billion.

Jamal said the claims by DoJ were targeted at Prime Minister Najib Razak and his wife Rosmah Mansor.

"We strongly protest the politics of the opposition. They are damaging the country and destroying the morals of Malaysians.

"Until now, no evidence has been presented by the DoJ, apart from several documents shown by the followers of Dr Mahathir," he said, referring to former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The DoJ's 251-page document, however, did not name either Najib or Rosmah, or seek court approval to seize the jewellery.

Rosmah's lawyers last week warned that they were monitoring "social media and publications of all types" for unfounded accusations against her.

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