Freedom Of Information Act: 1049-16

DIGEST OF DISCLOSABLE MATERIAL

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Date: 29 January 2016
MALAYSIA: NAJIB 'EXONERATED' [Redacted]

Summary
The Malaysian Attorney General Apandi Ali clears Najib of corruption allegations
[Redacted]

Detail

On 26 January, Attorney General (AG) Apandi Ali exonerated Prime Minister Najib of corruption allegations over the deposit of more than RM2.6 billion into his personal accounts and cleared him of political wrongdoing. Apandi said there is no evidence that Najib was aware of or had approved the transfer of public funds into his personal accounts [Redacted]

The investigations

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC) started investigating following disclosures in 2015 by the Wall Street Journal and online news portal Sarawak Report that more than RM2.6 billion had been deposited into Najib's personal accounts in 2010-14. Allegations included that public funds invested in state corporations had been transferred through a series of third party transactions.

[Redacted]

Najib has said he received US$700 million (RM2.6 billion) as a donation from the Saudi royal family and that this was to support Malaysia's practice of Islam and the fight against Daesh. But this week the AG said the money was given "without any consideration". The BBC has reported that the money was to help Najib win the 2013 election and driven by concerns over the PAS opposition party's links with the Muslim Brotherhood. But this was countered elsewhere in the press. [Redacted]

Reactions

The reaction on social media and online news sites has been critical [Redacted]. Former Prime Minister Mahathir declared Apandi had "saved" Najib and called the exoneration an injustice. The opposition parties condemned Apandi's decision and called for an independent prosecutor to look at the investigation papers. Civil society groups want the authorities to release the MACC's investigative findings.

[Redacted] Deputy Prime Minister Zahid Hamidi and Minister in the PM's Department Azalina Othman called on all parties to respect the AG's decision and consider the case closed. [Redacted].

Comment

From a legal perspective, the AG's decision closes the corruption investigation against Najib. The MACC has submitted its investigation papers to its oversight body, but this has a limited advisory role and no power to compel the AG to reconsider his decision. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

We will continue to monitor this closely [Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Date: 13 August 2015
MALAYSIA: NAJIB TAKES [Redacted]

Detail

The story so far...

[Redacted] Najib has been under sustained pressure over allegations of corruption and mismanagement at sovereign wealth fund 1MDB. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

In the days that followed the reshuffle, the PAC investigation into 1MDB was suspended pending selection of its new chair and the special task force investigating 1MDB was disbanded. In addition to the Attorney General, the task force had comprised the Inspector General of Police, Governor of the Central Bank and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). [Redacted]

On 8 August Najib announced the MACC had exonerated him of corruption and the funds in his bank account were a donation from the Middle East and not from 1MDB. There has been no official MACC statement to this effect.