

Datuk Nazri mentioned in an interview last 2 weeks declaring assets by Cabinet Ministers are dangerous and can jeopardize their safety. This statement is the most ridiculous statement and clearly can be seen as a statement of people who are scared that their corruption will be exposed.

The examples set by PSM member of Parliament, ADUN and also the councilors where they have been declaring their assets in public for the past 3 years has also motivated PR states to do the same. It started with Selangor excos declaring their income followed by Penang excos this year. And guess what, the rakyat welcomes it as they want to ensure that people who hold public offices are accountable to the public and do not misuse their position to enrich themselves.

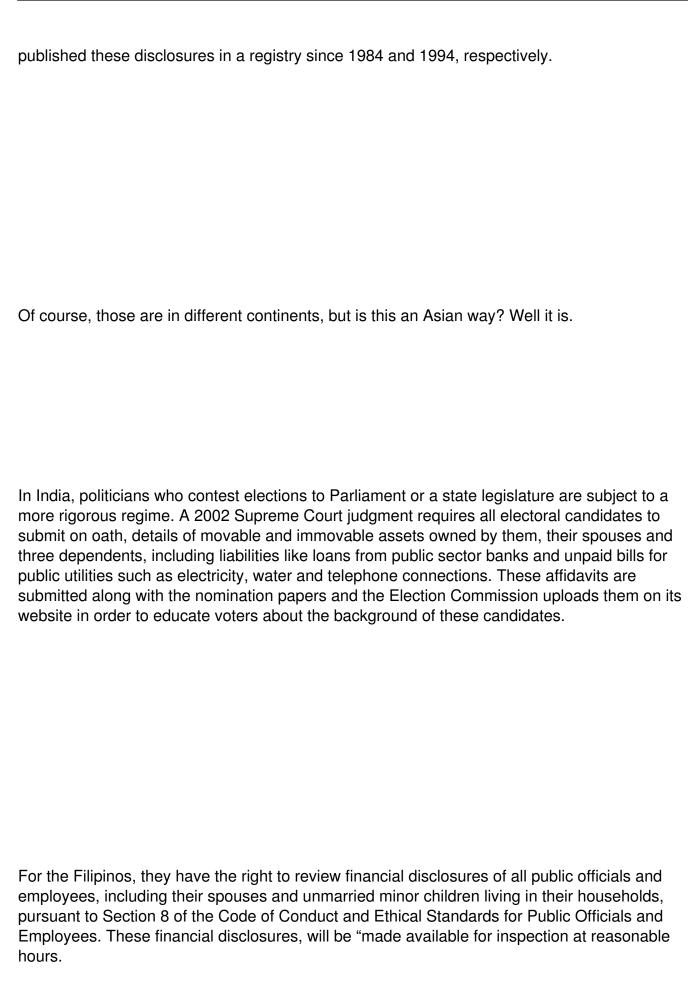
Countries which requires Asset / Financial Asset Declaration

In Latin America, 8 countries: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, Mexico, and Nicaragua, Paraguay requires their senior officials to make full asset declarations every year. In Mexico, over 100,000 public declarations are filed every year by senior officials and in Bahamas summaries of financial declarations are published in the Gazette. In Ecuador, declarations must either be made public or authenticated by a notary. Whereas in Belize, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, financial declarations must include information for spouses, children, and other financial dependants. Also in Belize, Brazil, Chile, Jamaica, and Nicaragua there is public access to financial declaration information regarding spouses, children, and financial dependants.

In Canada, the financial disclosure law requires that public officials, from Ministers of Parliament to officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, disclose financial assets yearly. This is important as the Canadian parliament is adopting the Conflict of Interest Code where transparency is crucial. Thus to ensure public officials do not misuse their position, the declaration of the financial assets is compulsory.

Even in the US, in response to Watergate and other public scandals and a weakening of the public's trust in government, the Congress enacted the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 ("Ethics Act"), which requires detailed financial disclosure by high-level government employees in all three branches of the federal government.

spouses and dependent children. The Australian House of Representatives and Senate have



So what is the problem with the Malaysian government to also come up with a law to declare financial assets for Cabinet Ministers, MPs and ADUNs? Why the BN government is scared unless there is something to hide? Are they worried that their corruption will be exposed?

If no, then the federal government members should just follow PSM's and PR's precedent to declare their assets to prove their hands are clean.
Malaysia always likes to emulate other countries in building the tallest building, the longest bridge, an administration centre like Putra Jaya is modeled after Washington DC and so on. Why not emulate also the ways to fight corruption like public declarations of assets? Wouldn't it avoid cases like the National Feedlot Corporation?
Well, the continuous denial of the BN government to implement declaration of assets and stupic statements like Dato Nazri's goes on to further confirm that BN has so much to hide. If in the event, PR takes over the federal government in the next election, it should prioritize the law for asset declaration as only then it can ensure a clean and corruption free administration. This is because too much power and no accountability can lead to corruption.

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