Curia Vista – data base of the Swiss Parliament
12.4251 – Motion
For the forfeiture of potentate Taib’s assets in Switzerland

Submitted by

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Date of submission
Submitted in the
National Council
Status of Debate
Not yet debated in the plenary

Submitted text
The Federal Council is asked to freeze all assets held by the Malaysian potentate Abdul Taib bin Mahmud and his entourage in Switzerland in view of a later restitution to Malaysia or the state of Sarawak

Statement of grounds
Abdul Taib bin Mahmud ("Taib") has been Chief Minister of the Malaysian state of Sarawak in Borneo since 1981. He has abused his public office in a spectacular way to illicitly enrich himself, his family members and his political cronies through corruption, abuse of office and the establishment of a number of monopolies held by his family members and cronies. Research by non-governmental organizations has shown that the Taib family holds stakes in over 400 companies in 25 countries and offshore finance centers. The Taib family assets have been estimated at over 20 billion Swiss francs. A large part of Taib’s illicit assets have been acquired in the context of the illegal logging of tropical rainforests of Borneo and the export of tropical timbers.

In June 2011, the Malaysian Anti Corruption authority MACC has launched a probe against Taib. There are indications that this probe is being obstructed by the current Malaysian Barisan Nasional government that depends on Taib for its political survival.

In the context of a civil litigation within the Taib family, a family member stated in October 2012 under oath in a Malaysian Court that Taib family assets worth over 100 million US dollars are being held in Switzerland or on overseas accounts of Swiss financial service providers. In relation with this claim, one has to take into account that, in August 2012, the Swiss Attorney General opened a criminal investigation against a Swiss bank for presumed money-laundering of the proceeds of corruption from the Malaysian timber business.

In view of a potential upcoming change of government in Malaysia and later restitution demands of a new Malaysian government, the quick forfeiture of Taib family assets in Switzerland suggests itself in order to prevent the dislocation and embezzlement of these assets

First chamber to deal with this motion
National Council
Co-signatories (21)
• Aebischer Matthias
• Allemann Evi
• Aubert Josiane
• Carobbio Guscetti Marina
• Chopard-Acklin Max
• Fässler-Osterwalder Hildegard
• Fehr Hans-Jürg
• Feri Yvonne
• Fridez Pierre-Alain
• Gross Andreas
• Gysi Barbara
• Hadorn Philipp
• Heim Bea
• Leutenegger Oberholzer Susanne
• Marra Ada
• Pardini Corrado
• Rossini Stéphane
• Roth-Bernasconi Maria
• Schneider Schüttel Ursula
• Schwaab Jean Christophe
• Wermuth Cédric