

Show us the money, Dr M tells Najib backers
MalaysiaKini.com
Apr 9, 2015

Former premier Dr Mahathir Mohamad's attacks against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak shows no signs of ebbing, with Mahathir now training his guns on those declaring support for Najib.

This comes as Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin told Mahathir to lay off Najib and let the current leadership do its job.

In his latest blog posting, the third against Najib this month, Mahathir asks Najib's supporters if they also agree with the RM42 billion debt racked up by the Umno president's brainchild, 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Mahathir said instead answering the questions posed to him, Najib is now getting pledges of support from Umno division heads, BN, MIC, senators and all kinds of groups.

"I am not asking anybody to support me. But I am going to ask all those who support Najib to declare whether they all support his 1MDB, that is 1MDB borrowing RM42 billion, and his inability to answer where the money is when asked," he said.

"Do you also support keeping billions of ringgit in the Cayman Islands? Do you also support that having brought back the money, it must be kept in a Swiss bank in Singapore?."

"Do you also support the explanation that the money cannot be brought back to Malaysia by the PM and finance minister because Bank Negara will ask too many questions?" Mahathir asked in his blog.

The government earlier said 1MDB's funds, which it redeemed from Cayman Islands, are kept in Singapore for ease of transaction.

Mahathir, who led the country from 1981 to 2003, further asked if Najib's supporters backed the sale of government-owned prime land in Kuala Lumpur at below market price to 1MDB, which later revalued the land to boost its bottomline.

He also questioned the Finance Ministry-owned firm's purchase of power plants from the private sector at higher than market prices.

Mahathir raised this in reference to 1MDB's questionable move to purchase the power plants from independent power producers in the private sector at higher prices, despite some of the plants being relatively old.

Mahathir, who turns 90 this year, said any proposal that 1MDB resells those land banks to government-linked firms at inflated prices means 1MDB is not in a sound position.

"If this sale is in order to pay 1MDB debts, that means 1MDB, which borrowed RM42 billion, cannot pay its debts from its investments. That it has lost the billions.

"So what happened to the RM42 billion borrowed? Why must 1MDB borrow RM2 billion to pay the interest? Why must the government make available almost RM1 billion in government money to pay the debts of 1MDB?," he asked.

On this, Mahathir was referring to Najib's reply in Parliament yesterday that RM2 billion was paid in February to Maybank and RHB. Najib also said that 1MDB is not bankrupt.

Earlier, Finance Minister II Ahmad Husni Hanadzlah said the government extended an RM950 million advance to 1MDB to ease its cash flow woes.

Najib is finance minister and chairperson of 1MDB's board of advisers.

So much trust for Jho Low?

Mahathir also refused to let go of the fact that tycoon Jho Low is close to Najib's family.

Low was reportedly heavily-involved in 1MDB's birth and admitted to advising the state investment firm.

He was given special thanks in end credits of 'The Wolf of Wall Street', a Hollywood film produced by Najib's stepson Riza Aziz's firm Red Granite.

Mahathir asked if Najib's backers have the same level of trust for the 30-something businessman Low, who has decried he is victim of political crossfire.

"I asked Najib simple questions but instead of answering the questions, he asked people to support him.

"I would like to ask the supporters whether their support means the disappearance of RM42 billion ringgit is okay, that there is no necessity to at least explain where the money is.

"If you do, go tell Daim (Zainuddin), Tengku Razaleigh (Hamzah), Shahrir Samad and Khairy Jamaluddin to shut up," he said.

Daim and Tengku Razaleigh are former finance ministers who have voiced concerns over 1MDB.

Shahrir is BN Backbenchers' Council chairperson, who urged Najib to stand up for himself while Youth and Sports Minister Khairy said Najib can no longer keep silent on Mahathir's attacks.

Mahathir had earlier also asked who ordered the killing of Mongolian woman Altantuya

Shaariibuu in 2006.

Police commandos assigned to then DPM Najib as bodyguards were convicted for the murder while Najib's associate Abdul Razak Baginda was acquitted for abetment.

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