

Dr M: Is Jho Low part of the gov't?

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Former PM Dr Mahathir Mohamad in his latest attacks against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, said a "totally independent commission" is needed to probe the controversial 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal.

In particular, he wants to know where the money has gone, and who the businessman Jho Low linked to the scandal is.

"Who is this Jho Low, who has suddenly become so very important?"

"He has no official position, (he is not part of) the government, he is not a civil servant, suddenly he has such power?"

And people tell me... although I cannot say it is proven (but I have been told)... that he conducts himself as if he is the government," said Mahathir (right) in a video clip, one of five uploaded on YouTube yesterday.

Among the other issues he fired shots at were the government aid BR1M, the murder of Mongolian national Altantuya Shaariibuu and the crooked bridge, which he said Najib had promised to complete.

Mahathir in one clip also gave reasons why he felt Najib should retire.

'Gov't probe could drag on'

The videos series were uploaded over a few days starting April 10 by a blogger under the moniker Din Turtle, who claimed that the videos were recorded at a blogger's function earlier that day.

In the clip about 1MDB, Mahathir expressed concern that the issue could drag on for years till the next general election, and cause BN's defeat if Najib does not step down by then.

He expressed little confidence in the auditor-general, saying they would not do a thorough probe.

Ironically he said he was more confident that the parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) because of opposition involvement in the bipartisan committee.

"But when (will they be allowed to)? Even yesterday they were asking," said Mahathir pessimistically.

The National Audit Department is currently verifying 1MDB's accounts while PAC chief Nur Jazlan Mohamed (left) had said that the committee would wait for the audit report before

investigating.

“If he steps down now, at least there will be a few years to remedy the situation,” Mahathir also said in the about three-and-half minute clip.

“It is very difficult now to do anything because you will lose money. At least a few billion will be lost. But what I fear most (is when) the opposition wins and we lose, they will spare no quarter. They will dig everything out.

“When they dig, people may be charged in court and may be found guilty. So if BN loses, this country will be seeing a lot of chaos. A lot of people will have to pay a big price,” he added.

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