

## **'Bucks stops at Najib, but Jho Low not off the hook'**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Apr 15, 2015**

Businessman Jho Low cannot wash his hands off 1Malaysia Development Bhd's woes and place blame squarely on the management and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua said.

Responding to Low's interview with Euromoney, the DAP lawmaker said while the buck stops with Najib, all those involved must also be held accountable for the "heinous crime against Malaysian taxpayers".

And going by the email correspondence leaked by Sarawak Report, Low may be in the list of wrongdoers, Pua said.

"Even if 1MDB had entered into various agreements with third parties with its eyes wide open, resulting in billions of ringgit of losses, the culprits who cheated 1MDB must also be brought to book.

"Hence, even if the questionable investment decisions and borrowings by 1MDB were all approved by Najib, those who masterminded and profited unscrupulously at the expense of 1MDB are no less culpable," Pua (right) said in a statement.

As such, he called on the police to haul up both Low and Najib for investigations "with the same ruthless efficiency they have done with Malaysian opposition leaders and activists".

Low, in the interview with Euromoney, said it is silly to blame him for 1MDB's sour deals since 1MDB has a board of directors and board of advisers, as well as shareholders to do due diligence.

"Are you telling me the prime minister doesn't make his own decisions? That the ministry, the finance minister, who is the prime minister – and there are only two to three people in the finance ministry that sign off on shareholder resolutions under law – that none of them... that they just signed without evaluating it?" Low reportedly said.

He also called Umno "spin masters", prompting Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin and Umno's Kepala Batas MP Reezal Merican Naina to demand Low be investigated.

This is "amusing", Pua said, given the fact that Najib had cleared Low in a written parliamentary reply to Wangsa Maju MP Tan Kee Kwong.

Najib had then said that Low never worked in 1MDB and that all 1MDB decisions and transactions were made by the management and board of directors.

Earlier this year, Sarawak Report published a series of exposes, citing leaked internal email, which showed Low as a central figure in orchestrating the 1MDB-PetroSaudi deal in 2009,

which later went bust.

1MDB invested US\$1 billion (RM3.7 billion) into the venture, but the leaked emails suggested that US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) was banked into Good Star Ltd, a company controlled by Low.

In response, 1MDB said it has recovered all the investment when the joint venture was dismantled, while the Saudi Arabian oil and gas firm said all funds had gone to PetroSaudi firms.

Low then said he was caught in political cross-fire, but did not deny the email. PetroSaudi lodged a police report over suspected hacking.

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