

## **DPM breaks ranks, says 1MDB issue can't wait**

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**By Nigel Aw**

The government may have repeatedly told the people to wait for the completion of the audit on 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) before passing judgment, but a leaked video has revealed the country's No 2 is not on the same page.

In the leaked video depicting a closed-door meeting between Muhyiddin and the Umno grassroots in Pahang last week, the deputy prime minister says the authorities must wait no longer.

"We have to take action, we cannot be, 'Nevermind, give a bit more time'. No!" Muhyiddin says, exasperatedly.

The event was believed to have taken place at Umno's training centre in Janda Baik, Pahang, last Saturday, just a day after 1MDB urged the public to wait for the outcome of the Auditor-General Department's audit.

"We request that no one should prejudge the matter without thorough facts, ahead of the reviews being made public," 1MDB said in a statement.

This was echoed by Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak on Sunday, a day after Muhyiddin's speech in Janda Baik, through his 'frequently asked questions' article posted on his blog.

"It is unfair for certain politicians to convict the government in the court of public opinion before the facts are presented by the authorities, which are the auditor-general and bi-partisan Public Accounts Committee," Najib said.

The seven-minute video was uploaded yesterday by former New Straits Times editor Firdaus Abdullah.

The video appeared to have diverted attention from Parliament today, where Najib presented the 11th Malaysia Plan, as journalists swarmed Muhyiddin about the leaked video, which he confirmed to be authentic.

"Those were views aired behind closed doors... It is my view and those of my political colleagues to better understand (the issue)," he said.

## **DPM moves differently behind closed doors**

Muhyiddin, who is Umno deputy president, merely smiled when asked how Najib had reacted to the what he said in the video, replying: "It's nothing; focus on my (present) statement".

The video also gave a closer look at who Muhyiddin is when he speaks to Umno leaders behind closed doors, as he spoke in a frank and prime minister-like manner.

Muhyiddin, who often comes across as dull and monotonous in public, displayed his ability to work with the grassroots as he cracked jokes and emphasised how Umno needed to deal with its public image with regard to 1MDB.

In his speech, Muhyiddin joked that Umno members were trying to act smarter than they actually were, but then continued in a firm tone, declaring his stance on matters such as 1MDB.

"On issues like this, I am convinced that if unresolved, it will be the straw on the camel's back," said Muhyiddin, who emphasised his point with uncharacteristic animated hand gestures.

Najib did not appear in the video clip, but other top Umno leaders present clearly seen were Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Deputy Finance Minister Ahmad Maslan, and Pahang Menteri Besar Adnan Yaakob.

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