

## **Unfazed Puad ticks off 'lazy' Muhyiddin**

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Former deputy education minister Mohd Puad Zarkashi slammed his ex-boss Muhyiddin Yassin for not doing his job and being "lazy" in view of the broken tables at a school in Keningau, Sabah.

In a Facebook posting yesterday, Puad accused the education minister, Second Education Minister Idris Jusoh and the two deputy education ministers, Mary Yap and P Kamalanathan, of not going to the ground and not knowing about the current conditions of the schools.

"Sounds good at the top level. Government spends billions (of ringgit) on 1BestariNet (project), but is the impact being scrutinised?" he asked.

Puad, who is Special Affairs Department (Jasa) director-general, is also unfazed on any action being taken against him for criticising Muhyiddin.

"The deputy prime minister also openly said things about 1MDB despite being a cabinet minister. No problem. Not afraid. Think out of the box," Puad said.

The former Batu Pahat MP's criticism came one day after Muhyiddin admitted yesterday that he had, at a closed-door function in Janda Baik, Pahang, last weekend, called for the 1Malaysia Development Bhd board of directors to be sacked and investigated.

Puad's (photo) grouse originated from a picture he received that showed pupils in a school in Keningau, Sabah, using dilapidated tables.

"This (happened) as the officer in-charge was not going on the ground? Why? Because the ministers and deputy ministers were lazy to go to the ground?" he asked.

When the deputy ministers led the ministry for almost two terms, those dilapidated schools, especially the schools at the inland of Sabah and Sarawak, were well taken care of, he said.

"Do not feel proud of the Education Blueprint when playing field is not level," Puad added.

His posting has brought mixed reactions, with some criticising Puad for failing to solve the problem during his time. Some jokingly said he feared Muhyiddin taking over the premiership, while others accused Puad of craving for popularity and positions.

"During my three years' tenure, I went to almost 70 percent of the schools at the inland areas. I once walked eight hours to reach SK Saliliran in Nabawan, Sabah," Puad replied to the criticism.

"Not a problem (for me) in losing position. Just don't lose yourself. I was vocal in the post-cabinet meeting when I still with the ministry."

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