

'1MDB bosses won't be absent without PM's nod'

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1Malaysia Development Bhd top guns would not skip the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearing on the firm tomorrow, without tacit approval from Finance Minister Najib Abdul Razak, DAP MP Lim Kit Siang said.

1MDB president Arul Kanda Kandasamy and former CEO Shahrol Halmi sought a 30-day postponement because both are abroad on official business.

Lim said it is implausible that the duo decided to seek an extension when it was a golden opportunity to clear the air on the matter.

"It is also unthinkable that Arul and Shahrol would dare to be absent from the PAC hearing without the greenlight from the highest authorities, even reaching up to the Prime Minister-cum-Finance Minister Najib (photo), who is also chairperson of the 1MDB Advisory Panel," he said.

Shahrol, who was 1MDB CEO from February 2009 to March 2013, is now president of the Malaysian Petroleum Resources Corporation, an agency under the Prime Minister's Department.

Lim said the absence is the "final straw" on the issue which has shone the spotlight on the RM42 billion debt racked up by the Finance Ministry-owned firm.

"It should be a final wake-up call to Malaysians who are still somnolent and think there is nothing wrong about the 1MDB scandal," he said in a statement.

As such, he said, he agreed with BN's Gua Musang MP Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah that the entire cabinet should be accountable for the 1MDB saga.

And there is only one thing to do if the cabinet does not heed Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin's call for the 1MDB board to be sacked, he said.

"The cabinet on Wednesday must sack the whole 1MDB board or sack itself!" he said.

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