

DPM dubs 1MDB a 'sovereign debt fund'

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By Radzi Razak

Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has held his tongue on 1MDB controversy for a long time and between his show of frustration last night, he found some humour in the issue as well.

During his hour long speech at the Cheras Umno division annual general meeting, Muhyiddin vented about how his advice to the prime minister on the issue was ignored and how Umno's electoral prospects were gloomy.

The source of this, was 1MDB, he said.

"There must be a final resolution to the 1MDB case. If not, it becomes our burden. It's not about one ringgit or two ringgit.

"Who sang that song? Seringgit dua Ringgit?" Muhyiddin jokingly asked his audience, who replied: "M Daud Kilau".

Immediately after Muhyiddin got his audience laughing, the tone of room changed when he stated that the 1MDB controversy involved "ribuan juta ringgit (billions of ringgit)" in debt.

"1MDB is not a sovereign wealth fund, but a sovereign debt fund," he said, drawing murmurs of agreement.

Asking for it on FB

He explained that 1MDB was Putrajaya's problem and thus Umno's problem as well.

"Will Umno members continue to be silent? For how long more?" he asked.

Earlier, Muhyiddin poked fun at Umno leaders who were using social media strategies wrongly.

"What's important is to regain public confidence. Don't just take selfies with the rakyat, only to have them talk bad behind your back later.

"When people pour criticism on our Facebook page, it's better not to have a Facebook account... Then again, it's good for him to know what the rakyat feels," said Muhyiddin.

Although Muhyiddin didn't name anyone, there was a possibility that he was referring to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, who has the most followers on Facebook and Twitter among any Malaysian politician.

In particular, Najib's Facebook page is well known for being flooded with a barrage of criticisms whenever a post or photograph is uploaded.

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