

Go on leave, Labis Umno Youth tells PM
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Johor's Labis Umno Youth has urged Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to go on leave to ensure that the special 1MDB task force executes its task in an independent manner.

The wing said this was vital as the people no longer trusted the task force after Najib roped in four Public Accounts Committee members into the cabinet and removed Abdul Gani Patail as attorney-general.

"This situation creates a negative perception about the credibility of the investigation among the people.

"To ensure transparency of the investigation, we suggest the prime minister goes on leave to smoothen the probe," the wing said in a statement today.

Labis Umno Youth was reacting to the sweeping changes made by Najib on Tuesday.

Besides appointing four PAC members, including its chief Nur Jazlan Mohamed as ministers and deputy ministers as well as removing Gani from his post, the prime minister also axed his number two, Muhyiddin Yassin.

Cabinet changes shocking, unwarranted

Labis Umno Youth said while it respected Najib's right to reshuffle the cabinet, it described the changes as shocking and unwarranted.

The wing said Muhyiddin was only seeking answers on 1MDB and looking out for the party's interests.

"It can be concluded that his statement was meant to strengthen the party in facing the next election.

"Attack after attack was clearly aimed at an individual, not the party," Labis Umno Youth added.

Several Umno divisions are displeased with Muhyiddin's ouster and have rallied behind the Pagoh MP.

Meanwhile, former Johor Umno Youth vice-chief Khairul Anwar Rahmat (photo), when asked to comment on the reshuffle, said being appointed as a leader was a responsibility, not a gift.

"We have to remember that each appointment to a leadership post must come with the realisation that it is a responsibility, not a gift," Khairul Anwar told Malaysiakini.

Khairul Anwar, who became famous for organising the Nothing2Hide forum, said it was not right to congratulate someone for becoming a leader, as it was not a prize to be won.

"Being a leader is a responsibility, it is not quite right to congratulate someone who holds office, as though he won something.

"The best wish is for them to work well or serve. From the people, for the people," he added.

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