

## **'Muhyiddin did not reveal his own political donations'**

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**Susan Loone**

Calls by Muhyiddin Yassin to Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to reveal the source of the controversial RM2.6 billion 'donation' in his private bank accounts does not benefit Umno, said Rural Development Minister Ismail Sabri.

Ismail said Muhyiddin - the former deputy premier - who is still Umno's deputy president should be aware that his comments would not be good for the party.

Muhyiddin has previously said he would continue to support Najib and strengthen the party, Ismail noted.

"However, he should ask himself if his statement (on the donation) was beneficial to the opposition or Umno?" Ismail asked, when met after meeting the federal-funded village and security development committee members in Penang today.

"For example, PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar (photo) has also taken legal action against Najib over the RM2.6 billion donation, and she is trying to dismiss BN's victory in the 2013 national polls," he added.

In the suit filed against Najib and 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) on Aug 12, PKR and a former PAS central committee member claimed that money laundering, corruption, and rigging of the 13th general election (GE13) was done with the use of public funds.

"So Muhyiddin's calls over the donation and where the money has gone are not advantageous to Umno at all.

"Even if we reveal information regarding the donation, it should not eventually be disadvantageous to us," he said.

## **'Respect the party's tradition'**

Ismail was referring to Muhyiddin's latest remarks that Najib had told former attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail to clear the air on the RM2.6 billion donation into the PM's personal accounts.

Muhyiddin had also said that was the last he heard about it before Najib summoned him to a meeting and admitted to receiving the RM2.6 billion from an unnamed Middle-Eastern donor.

Ismail said Muhyiddin has worked under former premiers Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Abdullah Ahmad Badawi (photo) in the past, and the duo have never revealed the party's political funding.

He added that Muhyiddin has also never done it when he was previously the Johor Menteri Besar.

“Has he ever presented how much political funding he received during Umno Johor meetings?

“If he had never done it, don’t ask others to do it. Mahathir, Abdullah Badawi never did it, but now Najib is asked to do it?” Ismail asked.

He urged Muhyiddin to respect the party’s tradition and not to abruptly introduce new policies.

Meanwhile, Ismail also said he supported Najib’s call to form a National Consultative Council on Political Funding.

He said if there were no such monitoring effort, many allegations about political funding would surface, as is the current situation with Najib.

He said the Council can also look into laws governing political funding which can be implemented by the Election Commission.

“So that all parties, whether from BN and opposition can declare their financial situation”.

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