

Umno minister targets Zeti for painting 1MDB as guilty

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A government minister has taken aim at Bank Negara governor Zeti Akhtar Aziz for giving the impression that 1MDB had violated the Exchange Control Act 1953.

Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Abdul Rahman Dahlan claimed that this was despite it not being the case.

"So it seems 1MDB did comply with Bank Negara's requirements.

"Why did the Bank Negara governor give us the impression that 1MDB broke Bank Negara rules and regulations?" he said in a Twitter post today.

"Bank Negara is a respected institution. Reckless accusations are not helping its integrity which by the way the governor told us must be protected," he added.

Abdul Rahman said this after Attorney-General Mohamed Apandi Ali earlier today rebutted Bank Negara's claim that 1MDB had provided inaccurate or incomplete information in its application to move US\$1.83 billion overseas.

"Thank you to the attorney-general for clarifying that 1MDB indeed followed procedures and did not break any law as claimed by the governor of Bank Negara," Abdul Rahman said in follow-up tweet.

Apandi said omission of documents by 1MDB was not its fault as Bank Negara did not request for the necessary information.

Bank Negara to respond

Bank Negara had made the accusation after the attorney-general refused to prosecute the case.

Previously, anonymous blogs had been set up to attack Zeti, accusing her of being part of a plot to topple Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Najib is fending off calls to resign amid several investigations into the presence of RM2.6 billion in his personal bank accounts as well as probes into his brainchild 1MDB.

When contacted on the attorney-general's comment, Bank Negara said it will be responding in due time.

"We will provide information on this, in due course, when our administrative action is finalised," a Bank Negara spokesperson told Malaysiakini.

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