

'Where is RM2.6b?' placards emerge after PM ends speech

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After Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak concluded his 90-minute Budget 2016 speech, opposition MPs stood up with placards that read, 'Mana RM2.6 billion?' (Where is the RM2.6 billion?).

This led to a commotion in the House.

The RM2.6 billion refers to the sum deposited into Najib's personal bank accounts, which became the subject of an investigation.

The amount is said to be a political donation from a Middle Eastern source ahead of the last general election in 2013, but Najib's detractors, such as former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, have dismissed the claim.

The prime minister has denied any wrongdoing and accused Mahathir of being part of a conspiracy to topple him.

Defence Hishammudin Hussien (photo) said the placard incident was a childish act.

"They were like schoolchildren," he told reporters outside Parliament.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Azalina Othman Said held similar views.

"The opposition is childish, what can I say? But for me, opposition can have any view. This is an democratic country," she said.

No time to stand up

PKR Sungai Petani MP Johari Abdul said it was not a planned act.

"I only received the sign when I was in the House, I'm not sure who made them," he told Malaysiakini.

The signs were carried by all Pakatan Harapan MPs.

With the exception of Pokok Sena MP Mahfuz Omar and Rantau Panjang MP Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff, the other PAS lawmakers did not appear to stand up and hold the sign.

Johari claimed they did not have time to get up.

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