

## **Mukhriz: Najib angered by my 1MDB, RM2.6b comments**

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Former Kedah menteri besar Mukhriz Mahathir says Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak rebuked him in person for daring to openly raise the questions on the 1MDB and RM2.6 billion 'donation' scandals.

"So, actually, and this has been admitted to me by the PM personally, he was dissatisfied, and sore with me, because of my speech (about 1MDB and RM2.6 billion... (inaudible)," Mukhriz says in a video recording of him relating the matter to supporters.

The seven-minute-52-seconds footage of what appears to be a ceramah session was posted on the Mukhriz Mahathir FC (Fan Club) Facebook Page on Tuesday.

According to Mukhriz, this was also why he had to let go of his MB post, not because of other matters, as brought up by the rebel Umno assemblypersons that triggered the string of events, ending with him toppled as head of the Kedah government.

In the video, Mukhriz says that Najib personally told him off over the matter.

"And he directly said this to me that it was inappropriate for an MB to say things like that to him as the PM, and because of that I must let go of my post.

"For the one-and-a-half hours that I spent with him in Langkawi that day, not even once did he say that he was disappointed in me for being unable to look after (the state) Umno or having failed in administering the state.

"What he did say was that he was angry that I chided him in my speech," Mukhriz says in the video.

### **Langkawi meeting**

While Mukhriz did not state when this was said to him and at which meeting, his reference to Langkawi as where Najib ticked him off may refer to the PM's Jan 23 visit to Langkawi, in conjunction with AirAsia's inaugural flight from the island off Kedah to Guangzhou, China.

The visit, just days after a pro-Najib faction in the state Umno rebelled against Mukhriz, made headlines with pictures of the smiling Mukhriz welcoming Najib circulated online, churning speculation that the PM offered him a federal post if he were to go quietly.

Mukhriz was brought down from power after the faction led by his deputy in Umno, Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah (photo), who is now the menteri besar, publicly announced their loss of confidence in Mukhriz, prompting the Kedah Regency Council to intervene.

While the matter was never brought up to the state legislature, the council met with all state assemblypersons and subsequently determined that Mukhriz no longer had the support of the majority of the assemblypersons, and therefore requested him to step down.

The rebel faction alleged that Mukhriz failed to mobilise the state Umno to face the coming general election and that he also failed in his administration of the state.

Mukhriz denied all these claims and went on to declare that his comments on the 1MDB scandal and the RM2.6 billion 'donation' were what did him in.

Mukhriz publicly aired his concerns over the twin scandals and had also asked Najib to settle them expeditiously, prior to his removal from power, though critics saw the move against the ex-MB as being more of a proxy attack on his father, former Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is even more vocal in criticising Najib.

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