

Muhyiddin: Azalina committed major sin linking me to Najib conspiracy
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INTERVIEW Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Azalina Othman Said has committed a major sin when she accused suspended Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin of conspiring against Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak.

Muhyiddin himself said this when he denied that there was a plan to conspire against the premier.

However, the Pagoh MP admitted receiving information from senior government officers including former attorney-general Abdul Gani Patail about the state of affairs of the country and on 1MDB.

He said Azalina could be "speaking through her nose" (when she accused him of conspiring with others).

"There is no attempt to conspire as at that time I was in the government. Conspire for what, as it did not happen anyway... but despite that I am considered guilty. I was the number two in the party and government, I am entitled to know. Knowledge does not mean I conspire, and secondly, I did not have the power to take action.

"The power lies with the attorney-general, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC). If I want to do it, if I direct them to do... I cannot. They are senior officers of the government, how could I conspire to develop a secret scheme. I thought I should know but it is not me who ordered things to move or gave directions. If I had given directions, it would not have been followed, only the PM's directives would be followed.

"Hence, Azalina had buruk sangka (prejudice) and this is a big sin," he said in an exclusive interview with Malaysiakini.

The former deputy prime minister was asked to comment on Azalina's accusation after he admitted that Gani had briefed him. Azalina (photo) cited that as evidence of high-level conspiracy to topple the prime minister.

Queried whether he had met or contacted Gani after July 29, Muhyiddin said he did not.

'I accept everything as Allah's fate'

Another poignant issue Muhyiddin commented was on whether he has ended any hopes of becoming the next prime minister.

He replied that as a Muslim he accepts everything as Allah's fate, including on his future

and what has happened to him.

Posed that he would be looked as being weak if he reacted in such a way, Muhyiddin said that is not the case.

"I have never planned that after this I would go there (to be PM), although politics is all about ambition, hope and expectation. But as a Malay, Muslim and being in Umno, my struggle is not about getting posts which I aspire. Maybe there are not many who think that way but that is the basic (principle) for me.

"I think of doing deeds for the blessings (pahala) I can get in this world, as we envisage that we do not live long in this world. There is the hereafter, paradise and hell. We cannot be too ambitious in politics, as I observe in political history, those who do that would not survive long," he said.

Muhyiddin explained that he had to handle and accept what has happened, as the episode was something which he had no choice but to face it.

"These are hard times but it would not keep me weak, or powerless as I have to face the challenges ahead.

"What is important now that as a Muslim, and looking at the present situation and recognising the long political struggle that I have gone through, I must continue to ensure that the race, religion and country are saved, especially in the challenging times that we are facing," he said.

It is what occupying his mind to these day, not his personal safety or on what would happen to him, Muhyiddin added.

However, he admitted, the fact that he does not have any position in the government now was something which never crossed his mind.

"There are those who say that if I did not air my views to the prime minister and the cabinet, maybe I would still be the DPM. However, it is not an issue of what I should get, but what I should do what is entrusted on me, my responsibility as a leader and a leader of the community for the betterment of the people and country. That is my calculation," Muhyiddin said.

He added that since he knew more than many others on what was happening in the country, he was merely expressing his concern about the state of Umno and the country.

"I am already 68. I am now more concerned about what would happen to my children, grandchildren and others in this country," said the native of Johor.

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