

Najib's ex-pol sec says PM will play hardball to stay in power

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Najib Abdul Razak's former political secretary Oh Ei Sun said his ex-boss will play hardball politics (politik keras) in his bid to stay in power.

"I think Najib has lasted (as prime minister) because he has been in politics for 40 years.

"So he is well-versed in using all kinds of hardball political tactics and so forth.

"Examples are of him sacking those who oppose him... he is capable in that respect," he told Malaysiakini after the function by the Nanyang Alumni Association Malaya today.

He said the removal of Muhyiddin Yassin as deputy prime minister and former premier Mahathir Mohamad as Petronas advisor were examples of the prime minister's handiwork.

Najib has been facing calls to resign amid the discovery of RM4.2 billion in deposits in his personal bank accounts which he claimed were "political donations".

Oh, who had served as Najib's political secretary for three years since 2009, said he knew Najib to be a gentleman who can also withstand the onslaught of criticism.

"The Najib I know is someone who is very gentlemanly, firm, and tough.

"So he can weather through these waves (of criticism)," he said.

Asked about the "donation" issue when he was still serving under Najib, Oh said it was never raised during his time.

"We only heard about something like this from the Wall Street Journal last year; before that, we didn't hear anything," he said.

Asked about 1MDB, Oh said the sovereign wealth funds should have invested in strategic areas, the economy, or helped the unfortunate.

He added that it would be inappropriate if 1MDB had indeed abused its funds as alleged.

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