

Namewee seeks PM's help on 1Malaysia movie
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After several unsuccessful bids to secure federal government grants for a film he is producing, controversial singer Wee Meng Chee is now seeking Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's intervention.

This follows his futile attempts, over eight months, to secure grants from the National Film Development Corporation (Finas) and the new Creative Industries Fund (CIF) to finance his movie titled 1Malaysia.

In a short video posting on YouTube today, Wee, better known by his stage name Namewee, said both Finas and the CIF refused to fund his project because the script is mostly in Mandarin.

The reason for the rejection of his applications, he said, was unfair and not in line with Najib's 1Malaysia concept, which is supposed to be inclusive.

namewee signing autographs 3Wee (left) said he now had "no choice" but to seek a meeting with Najib.

"I believe in Najib's 1Malaysia concept. But I have no choice now. I want to meet the PM, in one way or other," Wee said in the video.

The clip also gave details on the submission of his application to Finas.

"I have observed that all the poster frames are for Malay films only. This is not a good sign," said Wee upon entering the Finas headquarters.

Meeting with deputy minister

His visits to Finas headquarters later attracted the attention of then Deputy Information, Communications and Culture Minister Heng Sei Kie.

Heng followed up by organising a meeting between Wee with Finas and CIF representatives.

"She said that I would need to have at least 60 percent of my script in Malay in order to obtain a grant from Finas. She then told me to give up.

"However, she also informed me that the government had the CIF, which did not have any language restrictions and urged me to apply to it," Wee said.

Next, the video clip showed a footage of another meeting with CIF officials. When told that 50 percent of the script was in Mandarin, a CIF official was heard saying, "Oh, that is not 1Malaysia concept. Okay?"

In March, Wee announced that he would be producing a film about 1Malaysia because the concept, Najib's brainchild, resonated well with him.

He said he had been cautioned on the language requirement, but added that he would still try to seek Finas' support because he believes he will be treated fairly by the government.

