

Come Clean With The "1Malaysia EMail Project"
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KUALA LUMPUR - Tony Pua today said that Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and Pemandu officials are heaping layers of misleading and contradictory statements in an attempt to cover up the "1Malaysia email project" fiasco.

In his statement to Malaysian Mirror, he said "Pemandu had to edit the description of the project from a "government initiative" to a "private sector initiative", despite the fact that Tricubes Bhd has announced on Bursa Malaysia that it was awarded the email project by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (Mampu)."

Pua added that Najib Tun Razak had to take to Twitter to assure Malaysians that the much-criticised project would not be funded by the government and nor made compulsory.

However, he highlighted that in a radio interview with BFM yesterday, business services NKEA communications content and infrastructure director Dr Fadhlullah Suhaimi Abdul Malek had disclosed that government agencies will pay Tricubes Bhd to use the company's 1Malaysia e-mail database.

Pua quoted Dr Fadhlullah as saying that he expected agencies to pay Tricubes about 50 sen per e-mail, "cheaper than the RM1.00 printing, stationery, postage and dispatch cost of sending a regular letter."

"This disclosure comes as a complete shock to Malaysians because the Prime Minister has assured us that the Government will not be paying a sen for the project! And yet, it is now obvious that the "1Malaysia email project" is a scheme designed to fleece tax-payers monies with a service that is completely unnecessary."

"The fact of the matter is the creation of an "official email" account is absolutely unnecessary in "official" dealings with the Government. At this point of time, even Maybank and Citibank are able to send my monthly bank and credit card account statements to my Yahoo or Gmail accounts. I also have no problems receiving my monthly mobile phone bills from Digi Telecommunications. The signing up of a "1Malaysia" account is not only a hassle, it is clearly a barrier created specifically for certain parties to profit." he asserted.

Pua went on "While Dr Fadhlullah tried hard to justify the project by claiming that Government agencies will only pay 50 sen for each email sent via the 1Malaysia email account as opposed to RM1 for cost of printing and postage, he failed to explain why 50 sen should even be paid when banks and telecommunication companies pay absolutely nothing to send us our bills and statements today without having to set up "special" email accounts!"

He said that it was obvious that the design and nature of the "1Malaysia email project" was to create an artificial need for a concession to provide rent-seeking opportunities for companies which may find it difficult to provide real value-added services in a competitive environment.

"Given that the Prime Minister and Pemandu officials have been tripping over each other to provide flip-flopping explanations which repeatedly contradict each other, Pemandu must to

the right thing and disclose in full the contract awarded to Tricubes Berhad so that the public can know the full truth." he said.

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