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Dr Mahathir stays firm on stand that Najib should quit

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'As long as the prime minister is there, no proper investigation can be made' on 1MDB issues

by AYU MUSA KAMAL



The crisis can be ended immediately if Najib resigns and allow a full investigation to be made on the RM42b borrowed by 1MDB, says Dr Mahathir

FORMER Premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad remained critical of Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak when he again told the latter to resign in order to allow a full investigation on the RM42 billion borrowed by 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

Dr Mahathir wrote in his blog *chedet.cc* yesterday that Najib's resignation will allow a full investigation on the money borrowed by the troubled sovereign state fund.

According to Dr Mahathir, a proper investigation cannot be made as long as Najib remains in his post.

"The crisis can be ended immediately if the PM resigns and allow a full investigation to be made on the RM42 billion borrowed by 1MDB.

"As long as the PM is there, no proper investigation can be

made," he wrote.

The veteran leader further added that if no crimes can be detected and all the money is returned, Najib can then come back as PM and lead Barisan Nasional (BN) in the next election.

This is not the first time Dr Mahathir had called for Najib's resignation.

He had previously stated that an elected leader is not immune from removal before his term is out, warning that the ruling BN coalition, led by Umno, would lose the

next general election with Najib at the helm.

Dr Mahathir also lambasted Najib for accusing him of being the cause of the crisis.

"By accusing me of being responsible for the crisis, Najib is saying let us accept the disappearance of the billions of ringgit and behave as if nothing wrong has been done.

Najib had earlier claimed that Dr Mahathir was the cause of the crisis and even described the former premier as "a master of public perceptiori".

Najib wrote in his personal blog *najibrazak.com* that he understands political statements are not entirely about the truth, but about what the people will believe in the court of public opinion.

"This is why he continues to make insinuations, speaking half-truths, cracking misleading jokes and twisting statements to make his views exciting and palatable," Najib wrote just a few days after pulling out of the "Nothing to Hide" forum where he was expected to engage publicly on public issues which included matters with regards to 1MDB.

"From the interest and con-

cern shown by the people over the losses suffered by 1MDB, the matter cannot just be ignored. The people responsible must be investigated and if found guilty, they must be punished.

"A crisis may be the result but should we allow thieves to steal billions of ringgit in order to avoid a crisis," he wrote.

The fourth PM then elaborated that the public is in a position to know about the losses made by 1MDB.

"Lots of people know about the loss of billions of ringgit by 1MDB. These people are in a position to know because they have seen evidence of this loss.

"But they are afraid because of actions which the government can take against them. They may lose their jobs, or contracts or expectations of titles etc," wrote Dr Mahathir who stressed that he had no other choice but to go public about the matter after being paid no heed by Najib when approached privately.

"Without a strong government, this country would become anarchic. The crisis that would accompany the anarchic situation would be worse," he said.