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Time is right for one-to-one Najib-Mahathir dialogue, says Khairy

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin feels the time is now right for the Prime Minister to have a one-to-one dialogue with former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, with regards to the various issues surrounding Putrajaya, especially on i Malaysia Development Berhad (iMDB).

Khairy had, on Sunday, said Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak should only hold a "four-eyed meeting" with Tun M without the presence of a third person acting as a peacemaker.

"We have recently discussed and decided in the Cabinet on the rationalisation plan and the way forward, concerning the issue of iMDB.

"I think, of course he (Tun M), is very concerned, so is the rakyat. With this latest development, I think it is now the right time for Najib to update Tun Mahathir on the issue," he said yesterday.

Khairy said he believes the only person who can update Tun M on the issue is the

prime minister himself, adding that he is fully behind Najib in explaining the plans for iMDB.

"This (explaining on iMDB) will require the personal touch of the prime minister himself. Having said that, I will give my full support on the plans of iMDB, as I believe there have been some significant developments that have taken place after the Cabinet meeting,"

Khairy also commented on the prime minister's ultimatum of calling for ministers who do not support his iMDB plan to resign, saying that such a move does not indicate that Najib is not enjoying the Cabinet's full support.

"I don't think that's the case at all. Of course there have been legitimate questions regarding iMDB, but that does not mean the Cabinet is not supportive of the PM, or of his plans, as to popular beliefs" he said.

On claims that Umno is open to discussions with opposition party PAS on the issue of Islam, Khairy said they are always ready to discuss with them on issues pertaining to the religion and the Malay race.