

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	26 JULY 2017

'BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION'

'REAL ISSUE NOT WITH 1MDB'

Opposition using it to sabotage and illegally topple the govt, says Najib

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THE issues surrounding state-owned strategic investment arm 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) were blown out of proportion to topple the government in between election cycles, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Najib Razak yesterday.

Najib said the opposition would have chosen a different line of attack to illegally change the administration if 1MDB had not been around.

Speaking at the launch of the Invest Malaysia 2017 programme here yesterday, he said the government had known that the real issue was not with the company and, thus, had stood steadfast to face the orchestrated campaign

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by the opposition.

Najib, who is also finance minister, said it was clear that there were lapses in governance in 1MDB. Instead of burying their heads in the sand, the government had ordered investigations into the company at a scale unprecedented in the nation's history.

This, he added, was done instead of funnelling money to cover up issues the company might have faced, like what a former leader had done.

"Rather than funnel money to cover up issues 1MDB might have faced, which was the model embraced by a former leader, I in-

structed the rationalisation of the company. And it is progressing well.

"Indeed, many of the assets formerly owned by 1MDB are thriving. One only needs to drive past the Tun Razak Exchange to see the new construction for confirmation.

"But let's not forget that while there were issues at 1MDB, certain politicians blew them out of proportion, and tried to sabotage the company in an attempt to topple the government.

"We will not be deterred from our duty as the democratically elected government to serve the nation."