

'FORM RCI TO PROBE RM600B SPENDING'

NST- 5/12/2022

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PN must be ready to go through legal process, says Umno Info chief

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A ROYAL Commission of Inquiry (RCI) must be established immediately to investigate an alleged RM600 billion expenditure during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's premiership.

Umno Information chief and supreme council member Isham Jalil said Perikatan Nasional must also be prepared to go through the legal process to prove

that it was graft-free.

Isham said an RCI could prove where and how the money was spent during the Movement Control Order and Covid-19 emergency proclamation during Muhyiddin's time.

"Yesterday (Saturday), there was a police report made on the RM600 billion and I think this matter needs to be clarified. RM600 billion is a large amount.

"The federal budget itself is only RM300 billion (a year). We didn't get a chance to question

this because Parliament was then closed under emergency order.

"So, now is the time for answers on where the funds went. Plus, PN also seemed to have spent lavishly on the general election, raising more doubts," he said during a live Facebook broadcast on Saturday.

Previously, Amanah election machinery chief Sany Hamzan also pushed for an RCI to investigate the spending involving RM600 billion in emergency fund.

Sany, who is also a member of the Hulu Langat Parliament, lodged a police report on the matter at the Dang Wangi District police headquarters here on Nov 30.

The controversy on the RM600

billion emergency funds spent during the Covid-19 pandemic was initially raised by former Melaka chief minister Adly Zahari on Nov 15.

Adly had said that Pakatan Harapan would investigate Muhyiddin if it succeeded in forming a government after GE15.

Muhyiddin, however, insisted that all the money was spent to help during the pandemic and all of the expenses were undertaken in accordance to the set procurement policy.

On April 12, 2021, the *New Straits Times* reported that then prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the PN government, under his leadership, had

allocated RM340 billion to roll out economic stimulus packages for the years 2020 and 2021.

He also said another RM322.5 billion had been allocated for the 2021 Budget to battle Covid-19 and revitalise the economy.

Muhyiddin said although the amount had affected the nation's coffers, the measures formulated in the economic stimulus packages and the 2021 Budget were important to protect the lives and livelihood of the people.

"More than RM600 billion is a big sum of money.

"Although we don't have as much (funds) as before, it is important to better manage the lives and livelihood of the people (amid the pandemic)."