

DON'T CHALLENGE ME, PM WARNS MUHYIDDIN

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Evidence of firms with interest 'involving families' involved in misappropriation of govt funds during former PM's term

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has warned Perikatan Nasional (PN) chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin not to challenge him to expose evidence behind the alleged misappropriation of government funds by Muhyiddin's administration.

Anwar, at his first press conference after clocking in as finance minister yesterday, said there were processes and procedures that were not adhered to during the tenure of the PN government.

He revealed that companies with interest "involving families" were also involved.

"I want to remind Muhyiddin, don't challenge (me).

"I want to focus on governing the country, driving economic

growth and people's welfare.

"(But) once we are challenged, we will have to look into things."

He said on Monday there were serious breaches of procedures in government spending during Muhyiddin's administration.

He said this included excessive procurements, high markups as well as money going to certain parties.

Parti Amanah Negara election machinery chief Sany Hamzan previously pushed for a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) to be established to investigate the alleged spending of RM600 billion in emergency funds.

Sany, who is Hulu Langat member of parliament, lodged a police report regarding the matter on Nov 30.

The controversy regarding the RM600 billion spent during the Covid-19 pandemic was initially raised by former Melaka chief minister Adly Zahari on Nov 15.

He had said that Pakatan Hara-

pan (PH) would investigate Muhyiddin if the coalition succeeded in forming a government after the 15th General Election.

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

Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said he would hold talks with Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Acryl Sani Abdullah Sani regarding the RM600 billion spent, adding that he also planned to meet Anwar today regarding the matter.

Speaking after clocking in at the Home Ministry yesterday, he said it was unclear whether any investigation into the issue should be conducted by police or other agencies.

He said the prime minister's statement was clear as the latter even mentioned the amount together with the parties involved.

However, he added that the statement was also in a general context where Anwar said it would be up to the investigating parties to scrutinise the matter. **Additional reporting by Fuad Nizam**