

# DR M: APANDI TRYING TO ABSOLVE HIMSELF

Ex-PM says former A-G's response proves he had been derelict in his duty regarding 1MDB case

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**T**UN Dr Mahathir Mohamad said former attorney-general (A-G) Tan Sri Apandi Ali's statement asking him to "go fly a kite" after being accused of dereliction of duty was nothing more than a feeble attempt to absolve himself from blame.

He said Apandi's inadequate response proved that the allegation against the latter was true.

"My 'flying a kite' does not negate his dereliction of duty. It (Apandi's response) merely proves that the charge is correct."

Earlier this week, when responding to Dr Mahathir's statement accusing him of being derelict in his duties pertaining to the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scandal, Apandi told the former prime minister to "go fly a kite".

The two have been involved in a war of words after Dr Mahathir questioned the government's out-of-court settlement with Apandi over his suit for wrongful dismissal.

The suit followed Dr Mahathir's decision to terminate Apandi's contract as A-G in 2018.

Dr Mahathir has since defended his move to remove Apandi, saying that he was alarmed to know that despite 1MDB misconduct reported by former Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Apandi did not take any action.

In his latest social media posting, Dr Mahathir fired another salvo at Apandi, saying the latter had jumped when he questioned the out-of-court settlement.

"When I questioned the government for agreeing to settle out of court the suit for wrongful dismissal, instead of the current A-G providing an explanation, it was Apandi who reacted.

"Obviously, Apandi was not happy that I pointed out that his dismissal was justified on grounds of dereliction of duty and the government's decision to



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad (left) and Tan Sri Apandi Ali

settle and compensate him with an undisclosed sum of money is tantamount to agreeing that he was wrongfully dismissed."

Dr Mahathir said it was crucial to establish whether Apandi had failed to perform his duties as an A-G.

He said the decision of nine judges from three different courts levels which found Najib guilty in the SRC International Sdn Bhd case (a 1MDB-related company) proved that Apandi, who exonerated Najib from any wrongdoing, had failed in performing his duties.

He said it was clear the nine judges believed there were grounds for Najib to be charged.

The 98-year-old cited another High Court decision last year where judge Datuk Azimah Omar dismissed Apandi's defamation suit against Lim Kit Siang.

He said the judge's findings were damning of Apandi's role in the 1MDB scandal, where the judge, among other things, said Apandi's haste in closing and concluding investigations against Najib justified Lim's imputation that Apandi ought to be investigated for his conduct, which may have assisted in the cover up of the 1MDB scandal.

He said more sufficient grounds to prove Apandi's dereliction of duty were provided in the recent revelations by Zeti at the 1MDB trial.

"Zeti testified that she had asked Apandi to charge several 1MDB staff members for their involvement in the scandal but he did not act on it.

"I brought this matter up because public funds cannot be used to compensate Apandi when he was dismissed because of dereliction of duty.

"His decision to absolve and ex-

onerate Najib over the 1MDB scandal had allowed kleptocrats to fleece the nation of billions of ringgit," he said, adding after that more public funds were awarded to Apandi, who was exposed to have abetted and absolved the alleged kleptocrats.

Dr Mahathir also took aim at how Apandi tried to defend himself over the issue of dereliction of duty by linking the decision to withdraw an application for judicial review in relation to Pulau Batu Puteh.

"Apandi said the decision was made under my watch, which he said was a dereliction of duty.

"In the first place, what kind of legal brain does he have when he tried to justify his dereliction of duty by citing my purported dereliction of duty?"

"Does that mean that it is justified for him to commit dereliction of duty if others commit such things, too?"

Dr Mahathir said he was prepared to explain his decision whenever and if the government felt necessary now that Apandi had brought up the Pulau Batu Puteh issue.

"My refusal to answer is to the committee, which is headed by Apandi who had been exposed to be incompetent and had been accused of abetting in the 1MDB crime. I can't understand until today that the government had appointed Apandi, whose credibility as an A-G had been sullied and tarnished for his dereliction of duty, to head the Pulau Batu Puteh committee.

"Isn't it a joke that a person so obviously incompetent is given the responsibility to find wrongdoings of others? Instead, based on all the court findings and expose, Apandi should be charged for his role in the 1MDB scandal."