

MACC RECORDS MUHYIDDIN'S STATEMENT

Investigation into RM300m allegedly deposited into Bersatu's accounts in final stage

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THE Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has recorded Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's statement in connection with its ongoing investigation into the source of the party's funds.

It is learnt the former prime minister had his statement recorded at the MACC headquarters on Thursday over the alleged deposit of RM300 million into the party's two accounts.

A Bersatu leader said Muhyiddin told him he had been summoned to the MACC headquarters.

With Muhyiddin's statement, MACC is looking to wrap up investigations into the case soon, a source told the *New Straits Times*.

"We have recorded other party leaders' statements as part of the investigation and will most likely have the full findings ready in a week or two," the source said, adding that the report would then be handed over to the Attorney-General's Chambers (A-GC).

It is learnt that the MACC has opened several investigation papers (IPs) into the case.

Some investigation papers have been handed over to the A-GC.

The source said the investigation into the RM300 million allegedly deposited into Bersatu's accounts was in its final stage.

"Once completed, the IPs will be handed over to the A-GC for further instructions... (and) whether or not to charge (the relevant par-

ties)," he said.

On Tuesday, MACC confirmed that Muhyiddin would be called in to facilitate an investigation into Bersatu's financial records.

He was summoned to explain the RM300 million that the party was said to have received as political funds from contractors who were awarded projects during his tenure as prime minister.

It was reported that two bank accounts belonging to Bersatu, with a total balance of RM40 million, have been frozen.

It was reported that the contractors were identified following MACC's investigation into several accounts belonging to Bersatu that were frozen last month.

It was reported that the party had received up to RM300 million from the contractors as political funding following "an agreement" they made with some party members, including those who had served in Muhyiddin's administration.

TIMELINE OF MACC PROBE

Dec 6, 2022

- The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said it received a tip-off from the Finance Ministry on the alleged wrongful use of Covid-19 economic stimulus package funds in 2020 and 2021 during Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin's administration.
- The probe focuses on the misappropriation of RM92.5 billion in government funds.

Dec 15, 2022

- MACC raids eight government agencies and nine companies as part of investigations into the misappropriation of RM92.5 billion by the Perikatan Nasional government during its 33-month administration.
- MACC said five middlemen from several companies obtained projects worth RM50 million to RM500 million through direct negotiations.
- Contractors that MACC questioned admitted they agreed to pay commissions of between three and five per cent to secure projects from middlemen.

Jan 5, 2023

- MACC arrests a 42-year-old chief executive officer of a company, who is also a Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia division leader, over his role as a middleman to broker government projects related to the Covid-19 stimulus packages in exchange for bribes.

Feb 1, 2023

- MACC said two bank accounts owned by Bersatu were frozen.

Feb 2, 2023

- Muhyiddin said he will write to the MACC to seek the unfreezing of Bersatu's accounts since no proof has been found on the alleged misappropriation of funds.
- He accused the graft-buster of trying to put the party in a bad light ahead of state polls.
- Bersatu publishes its account statement online. It showed a balance of RM28.4 million in 2020 and RM66.6 million in 2021. But the RM257 million in so-called donations it received during both years have raised doubts.

Feb 16, 2023

- Muhyiddin presents himself at the MACC headquarters to give his statement.

