

MUHYIDDIN ARRESTED, TO BE CHARGED TODAY

He may face 6 charges of abuse of power, money laundering, say sources

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PARTI Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin was yesterday arrested and will be charged in court today over the Jana Wibawa programme scandal.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) said Muhyiddin was arrested at 1pm after his statement was recorded at the commission's headquarters here.

His statement, MACC said, was taken to complete the investigation into the Jana Wibawa programme and other related issues.

"MACC has received the consent of the Attorney-General's Chambers to proceed with charging Mahiaddin (Muhyiddin's real name) at the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex (today).

"(He) will face several charges under Section 23 of the MACC Act 2009 and Section 4(l)b of the Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorism Financing and Proceeds of Unlawful Activities Act 2001 (AMLATFPUAA)," it said.

MACC did not say how many charges would be levelled against

the former prime minister, but sources said he would face at least six — four under the MACC Act for abuse of power and two under AMLATFPUAA for money laundering.

Muhyiddin arrived at the MACC headquarters yesterday about 11.15am to give his statement on the government funds allocated for the Jana Wibawa programme.

The Perikatan Nasional chairman and Pagoh member of parliament had confirmed in a Facebook post on Wednesday that he had been summoned to the MACC headquarters.

The Jana Wibawa programme was introduced by Muhyiddin's administration to speed up project implementation and boost the country's economy during and after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The programme also aimed to increase the capacity of Bumiputera contractors in the industry to be more competitive and resilient.

However, in December last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim revealed that the Finance Ministry had discovered breaches in procedures over the handling of nearly RM600 million in public funds for the programme.

Muhyiddin will not be the first Bersatu member to be hit with graft-related charges over the Jana Wibawa programme.

Last month, MACC chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki had said MACC had frozen Bersatu's bank accounts while investigations were being carried out.

Also last month, then Bersatu information chief Wan Saiful Wan Jan and businessman Adam Radian Adam Muhammad, a party division deputy chief, were charged with graft-related offences.

Adam Radian was also hit with several more charges in the days that followed.

An aide to Wan Saiful also found himself facing charges.

Mohamad Shafiq Abdul Halim, who had claimed MACC had offered Wan Saiful RM10 million to say in his statement that Muhyiddin had instructed him to accept a bribe in connection to the Jana Wibawa programme, was charged with obstructing investigations.

This followed his failure to turn up at the MACC headquarters when he was summoned to have his statement recorded.

Additional reporting by Faris Fuad

Page 1 pic: Perikatan Nasional chairman Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin being swarmed by supporters outside the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's headquarters in Putrajaya yesterday.