

**'GOOD INTENTIONS'**

# PM: NAJIB'S APOLOGY WELL-RECEIVED

**Umno veep, meanwhile, says it reflects actions of person with big heart**

**T.N. ALAGESH**  
KUANTAN  
alagesh@nst.com.my

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim responded succinctly to Datuk Seri Najib Razak's apology for the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) financial scandal.

"*Terima baik* (well-received)," said Anwar when questioned by the press after Friday prayers

at Surau Ar-Rahman Presint 16 yesterday.

His brief remark came after Najib issued a public apology regarding his role in the scandal, but maintained his innocence as he claimed he was deceived by fugitive businessman Low Taek Jho.

Anwar attended the congregational prayer following a meal at D'Laila Kitchen at the Presint 16 food court.

He arrived at the food court at

12.40pm, where he was warmly greeted by more than a hundred pupils, including those from SK Putrajaya Presint 16(1), and engaged with residents dining there.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said Najib's public apology over the 1MDB scandal was not merely an attempt to gain sympathy.

"I believe the statement was made sincerely and came from the heart."

Wan Rosdy added that the statement reflected Najib's good intentions, though certain parties had taken advantage of him.

"His public apology to

Malaysians is not about seeking sympathy, but rather reflects the actions of a person with a big heart."

The Pahang menteri besar also said he hoped Najib would be freed and that justice would prevail against the masterminds behind the 1MDB scandal.

On Thursday, Najib's apology was read out by his eldest son, Datuk Mohamad Nizar, to the press outside the Kuala Lumpur Courts Complex.

Najib said PetroSaudi and Low had collaborated to deceive him, and that he was not aware that PetroSaudi was siphoning 1MDB funds, based on Swiss court pro-

ceedings and an analysis by *The Edge*.

The High Court is expected to deliver its verdict on the case at the conclusion of the prosecution's case next week.

Najib was charged under Section 23(1) of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission Act, which provides for imprisonment of up to 20 years and a fine of up to five times the amount or value of the bribe, or RM10,000, whichever is higher, if found guilty.

For the 21 charges of money laundering, Najib is accused of committing the offences between March 22, 2013, and Aug 30, 2013.