

# 'I DID NOT DISBAND 1MDB TASK FORCE'

No evidence to support claim that such instructions came from me, Najib tells court

RAHMAT KHAIRULRIJAL  
PUTRAJAYA  
rahmat@nst.com.my

**D**ATUK Seri Najib Razak yesterday denied that he had orchestrated the disbandment of a special task force probing the 1Malaysia Development Bhd scandal.

The former prime minister said the allegation that he instructed that the task force be disbanded was nothing more than a "simplistic and baseless" sound bite.

"It was crafted to unfairly cast blame on me.

"In fact, there is no evidence to support the claim that such instructions came from me.

"This accusation is a deliberate distortion of the facts and reflects an attempt to sensationalise rather than present the truth," he said before judge Datuk Collin Lawrence Sequerah.

Najib said this when testifying in his own defence in his corruption trial for misappropriating billions of funds belonging to 1MDB.

He said former Bank Negara Malaysia governor Tan Sri Zeti Akhtar Aziz testified that former attorney-general (A-G) Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali told the



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**DATUK SERI NAJIB RAZAK**

task force's members that it was no longer needed.

Najib said Apandi had said the relevant agencies should continue their investigations independently, which they did, unimpeded and unhindered.

"The dissolution of the task force was not a directive from me but an administrative decision communicated at the appropriate institutional level.

"Moreover, the dissolution of the task force had no impact on the investigations into 1MDB.

"BNM had already launched its independent probe, which led to a RM15 million fine imposed on 1MDB in 2016.

"To suggest that I personally orchestrated the purported dis-

bandment of the task force is not only devoid of factual basis but also a deliberate attempt to fabricate a narrative to suit the prosecution's agenda."

Najib likened his ongoing legal battles to an intensive education in law — one he claims could rival a university degree.

"Six years of this is more than university education!

"At this point, I feel like I could teach a course on not just criminal law, but also civil law, and even how taxation law can be abused.

"It's been an intensive, hands-on learning experience, though I wouldn't recommend it to anyone," he quipped.

The former Pekan member of parliament, who had been testifying in English all this while, suddenly switched to Malay when pleading for the judge to consider his appeal with compassion and fairness.

"Your honour, I appeal to your wisdom and sense of justice. Amid the facts and allegations presented, I am merely an individual seeking the opportunity to defend the truth.

"Please do not allow justice to fall victim to political games and malicious intent.

"I earnestly plead for your honour to assess this matter with a sincere heart and clear eyes, to ensure that this court remains the final bastion of justice."

Najib faces four charges of abusing his position to receive RM2.3 billion in bribes from 1MDB funds and 21 counts of money laundering involving the same amount.

The trial continues.