

'Petronas chief humiliated Dr M'

Free Malaysia Today

9 January , 2013

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malay Economic Action Council (MTEM) today branded Petronas chief Shamsul Azhar Abbas as ungrateful for the way he treated former advisor Mahathir Mohamad.

MTEM CEO Nizam Mahshar, said a reliable source in Petronas had told him that Petronas cleared Mahathir's office within 24 hours after he sent in his resignation letter to PM Najib Tun Razak.

"Petronas humiliated Tun by clearing out his office in KLCC and sealing it up barely 24 hours after his resignation.

"Is this how a national oil company treat a man who was instrumental in turning Petronas into a Fortune 500 company? asked Nizam at a press conference today.

"Tun has made tremendous contributions in his 27 years as prime minister and also as advisor to the oil giant? Are they really glad to let him go?

According to Nizam, there must be another reason for Mahathir's resignation besides his cited health issues.

"We believe that Mahathir will not resign simply because of health reasons since he is still the adviser to Proton and the Langkawi Development Authority (LADA).

"And he is still engaged in other productive activities. You can see for yourself if you go to his office, it's always full and we don't see health as a reason for him to step down," he added.

Mahathir stepped down as Petronas adviser on Dec 1, 2013, saying that he made the decision following his doctor's advice for him to "slow down".

'Shamsul must come clean'

MTEM Oil and Gas Cluster chairman Tengku Putra Tengku Ahmad went a little further by saying that Shamsul was a compulsive liar and an ungrateful person.

"MTEM wants the Petronas president to come clean. If it's true that he was behind the humiliation of Dr M, he is not qualified to hold that post.

"We back Mahathir because we don't want the statesman to be treated like garbage by Petronas. It was he who turned Petronas into what it is today," he added.

MTEM also claimed that Petronas is keeping mum on a long list of issues raised by it.

According to Nizam, Petronas boasted that it had allocated RM10 billion worth of projects to six Bumiputeras companies, a mere 3.3% of its RM300 billion budget allocated for capital expenditures.

“What’s more to say, it’s only 3.3% from their total budget,” he said.

Nizam also alleged that out of a total of 79 total companies registered under Petronas’s Vendor Development Programme (VDP), there were only nine left.

“Only three new vendors have been appointed since Shamsul took over Petronas,” he said, adding that Petronas was established to serve the rakyat.

Nizam, however, declined to compare Shamsul’s administration of Petronas to its former president Mohd Hasssan Merican, nor naming a suitable candidate to lead the Malaysian oil and gas giant.

He added said that Shamsul needed to vacate his post for a better candidate who can champion the national oil and gas industry.

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Source: <http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2014/01/09/petronas-humiliated-dr-m/>