

**Putrajaya's credibility sinks or swims with PM's water bills**  
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Someone is lying. It is as simple as that. It is either Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim or Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor. One of them has misled Malaysians on the straight-forward issue of how much water was used in Seri Perdana in 2012.

It is not a life or death situation. It will not make a difference to the well-being of 30 million Malaysians.

But what it does indicate is the cavalier manner in which those in power deal with information and their propensity to shade the truth when the spotlight is turned brightly on them.

Late last year, Shahidan, the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, in a written reply in Parliament said the government spent RM2.3 million and RM311,174,25 respectively on electricity and water charges for the Prime Minister's official residence in Putrajaya for the 2012.

Pakatan Rakyat (PR) politicians pounced on these figures and slammed the First Family for their wanton use of taxpayers' funds, noting that other world leaders do not chalk up such high charges for use of electricity and water at their official residence.

But in true Malaysian fashion, after a few days of huffing and puffing, all was forgotten, including Shahidan's promise to obtain information on how much utility charges were chalked up by the White House.

A few days ago, the Prime Minister's wife raised the issue of Seri Perdana's excessive water bill. She denied that the bill for 2012 exceeded RM300,000 and added that the story was floated before the last general election on May 5 last year to paint the First Family in a negative light.

Remember, this was unsolicited piece of information by Rosmah who was using this water episode to demonstrate the viciousness of the attacks against her and the unreliability of news portals.

Remember, this was the PM's wife speaking at a public event and debunking figures provided in Parliament by a minister in her husband's Cabinet.

Was she given wrong information by her advisors? Did she not realise that Shahidan had answered the question in Parliament sometime late last year, after and not before the general election?

Or did Shahidan get his "facts" wrong?

Whatever the case, one of them is wrong. – June 25, 2014.

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