

Quit if you don't support Najib, Kedah lawmaker tells Mukhriz
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As Umno leaders rush to defend their president Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir has come under fire for not openly stating his support towards the prime minister.

A Kedah Umno state lawmaker wants Mukhriz to step down as menteri besar if the latter does not publicly state his support for Najib, as the latter owes his job to the prime minister.

Bukit Lada assemblyman Datuk Ahmad Lebai Sudin also criticised Mukhriz for linking his support towards Najib to the investigation of debt-ridden 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

"The Menteri Besar's post is appointed by the prime minister with the support of Barisan Nasional assemblymen. If he no longer supports the prime minister, it is best to resign," Ahmad Lebai was quoted as saying in a report on SuaraTV.

Ahmad Lebai was interviewed by the news portal after a meeting between state Umno leaders, MPs and state assemblymen called by Mukhriz's officer this morning.

Ahmad Lebai claimed that the meeting was supposedly to state their support to the prime minister and party president.

Najib has been under fierce attack by veteran Umno leaders such as former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed and former finance minister Tun Daim Zainuddin.

Dr Mahathir, a former Umno president and also Mukhriz's father, has called for Najib to resign, saying that Umno and BN will lose the next general election if he did not do so.

This has triggered a wave of support for Najib from Umno grassroots leaders and those in the BN.

Ahmad Lebai claimed that during the meeting, Mukhriz had said he would wait for the outcome of the 1MDB audit investigation before stating his support for Najib.

"Mukhriz stated that he would back Najib only if the investigation found that there was no wrongdoing in 1MDB. But if the investigation finds otherwise, he will side with the people," Ahmad Lebai told SuaraTV.

Ahmad Lebai claimed that some of the Umno leaders at the meeting took an exception to Mukhriz's stand.

"1MDB is an issue of management that is being investigated by the Audit Department. The issue should not be a benchmark of Najib's leadership.

"Najib himself has promised to take stern action if there was evidence of wrongdoing," he was quoted as saying to SuaraTV.

"I was told that the meeting was to state our support to the prime minister. But during the meeting the menteri besar said he would be on the people's side.

"I was perplexed. Which people? There are also a lot of people who support Najib," Ahmad Lebai told SuaraTV.

He said among those at the meeting were state lawmakers Nor Saidi Nanyan of Kuah, Kama Noriah Ibrahim (Pedu), Datuk Abu Hasan Sarif (Kota Siputeh) dan Datuk Ahmad Zaini Japar (Bukit Kayu Hitam).

According to Ahmad Lebai, the state exco who were present included Datuk Dr Ku Abd Rahman Ku Ismail who handles the industry and investment portfolio, Aminuddin Omar (Youth and Sports) and Datuk Badrol Hisham Hashim (housing and local government).

The division chiefs who attended were Datuk Mohd Rozai Shafian (Pendang), Datuk Seri Abdul Azeez Rahim (Baling), Datuk Johari Baharum (Kubang Pasu), Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid (Padang Terap) and Abdullah Hasnan (Kuala Kedah). – April 12, 2015.

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