

**Clear your name, accept Dr M's challenge, PAS tells Najib**  
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak should debate Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and clear his name after being accused by the former prime minister of lying over debt-laden 1MDB, PAS said today.

In a statement, the Islamist party's vice-president Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said Dr Mahathir's allegation that Najib had lied was a "heavy" allegation against the prime minister.

"This is Najib's chance to prove who is actually lying – he or Dr Mahathir, especially as his former boss got his facts wrong about the speaker's resignation," Tuan Ibrahim said.

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir at a forum in Ipoh said Dewan Rakyat speaker Tan Sri Pandikar Amin Mulia had quit his post, only to be refuted by Pandikar himself.

At the forum, Dr Mahathir also challenged Najib to a debate over the controversy surrounding 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), Najib's brainchild, which sits on a RM42 billion debt.

Tuan Ibrahim said Najib's claim that the RM42 billion was locked in terms of assets in Bandar Malaysia and Tun Razak Exchange proved Dr Mahathir was right in his accusations over 1MDB.

"Is this an admission that the RM42 billion was spent and now 1MDB has to depend on the development of TRX and Bandar Malaysia in order to settle its debts.

"RM42 billion is a huge amount. If the amount is used properly, 1MDB can develop TRX on its own without having to sell land to Lembaga Tabung Haji."

1MDB is one of the main reasons cited by Dr Mahathir in his calls for Najib's resignation.

At the forum yesterday, Dr Mahathir said he had been studying 1MDB since 2009 and there were unsatisfactory answers to why power plants were purchased at above-market prices and why money was being kept in Cayman Islands.

"We are asking where is the money. We don't know where it is. It's the people's money," he said of the RM42 billion debt incurred by 1MDB.

He said it was not his intention to bring anyone down but given Najib's handling of the matter, it was high time he stepped down. – May 17, 2015.

Source:

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