

Not wise for PM to debate openly with former leader, says Najib
The Malaysian Insider
Jun 10, 2015

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak today defended his no-show at the highly anticipated "Nothing To Hide" forum last Friday, saying that what was initially supposed to be a forum had turned into an open debate.

In his latest post on his blog today, he said it was not wise for a prime minister to debate openly with a former prime minister from the same political party, adding that a public debate with Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad would not bring any good to either Umno or Barisan Nasional.

"I as the prime minister and Umno president am responsible for looking after the good name of the government and party.

"Tun Mahathir has the right to question and I am willing to give him an explanation.

"I am doing this so that the reasonable matters raised by Tun Mahathir can be addressed," he said.

He said changes to the event's format from a closed-door to an open session could have sparked a political confrontation between him and Dr Mahathir.

He expressed regret at the cancellation of the event organised by non-governmental organisation SukaGuam, which was called off due to security reasons, as it had prevented him from continuing the dialogue session with NGOs on the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) controversy.

"However, I will continue to relay information in whatever way that is good and prudent. This includes accepting invitations from NGOs and I plan to meet with NGO groups soon," he said.

He said among the topics planned at the dialogue was the fact that 1MDB's RM42 billion debt had not gone missing as alleged by Dr Mahathir.

"On that, I am happy to inform that the Finance Ministry together with 1MDB has come up with a rationalisation plan to reduce the firm's debts."

He said 1MDB had recently paid RM3.6 billion towards this end, although the effort was not welcomed by parties critical of the 1MDB debt. – June 10, 2015.

Copyright © 2015 Edge Insider Sdn Bhd

Source:

<http://www.themalaysianinsider.com/malaysia/article/not-wise-for-pm-to-debate-openly-with-former-leader-says-najib>