

Stop evading 1MDB questions, DAP lawmaker tells Najib
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By Eileen Ng

DAP's Tony Pua today asked Datuk Seri Najib Razak to stop being a hypocrite, a day after he called the prime minister a nincompoop for not answering parliamentary questions related to troubled 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

The Petaling Jaya Utara federal lawmaker mocked Najib, who wrote on his blog yesterday asking to be judged on facts, saying that at the same time, the PM had blatantly blocked all parliamentary questions to obtain facts on the debt-laden firm.

He was especially peeved when he once again received a parliamentary written reply from Najib which he described as a "non-answer".

Pua had asked the finance minister the reasons for refusing to give a breakdown of the Goldman Sachs fees and bond discount to investors for the issuance of bonds valued at US\$3 billion, US\$1.75 billion and US\$1.75 billion for 1MDB Global Investment, 1MDB Energy and 1MDB Langat respectively.

This was the second time Pua had asked the same question.

Najib, in the written reply, had said based on information given by 1MDB management to the Finance Ministry, the negotiation and yield were in accordance to standard marketing process between the issuer and investor during the negotiation for the sales and purchase of fixed income security.

He said Goldman Sachs acted as a principal and not agent for the transaction.

Moreover, the yield that Goldman Sachs received from the bond issuance price, fees and coupons was appropriate to the issuance size, period, liquidity and credit risk.

"There is no better and higher platform for facts to be obtained and revealed than Parliament, and yet, most of the MPs' attempts to secure answers to simple questions are met with a brick wall.

"Najib once again demonstrated absolute contempt for Parliament by refusing to answer, give the requested breakdown or the reasons the breakdown cannot be provided.

"Instead, he practically repeated the same answer as he did in the last sitting," he said at the Parliament lobby today.

Pua said he had asked the question in hopes of obtaining the necessary facts to determine if 1MDB had overpaid Goldman Sachs for the three bond issue exercises.

He likened Najib's answer to asking a murder suspect to judge himself in a court of

law.

"Malaysians have no choice but to judge the prime minister as a big hypocrite who pretends that he wants to be judged on facts but at the same time, denies these same facts to the public.

"Given such unforthcoming, shifty, secretive and dodgy behaviour, Najib cannot blame anyone but himself for Malaysians presuming him guilty of wrongdoings over the massive RM42 billion 1MDB scandal," he said.

Writing in his blog yesterday, Najib said he too wanted answers "quickly" on the 1MDB controversy but added that any action taken by Putrajaya must be based on facts and not allegations.

In the frequently asked questions (FAQ) section in his blog, Najib said the authorities needed to be allowed to provide information in a proper and legal manner.

"Is the government supposed to base its actions and prosecutions on wild allegations and tabloid exposes? Now that would be silly," he said.

Najib has been under attack over the Finance Ministry-owned investment vehicle established in 2009, which has chalked up debts of up to RM42 billion, backed by Putrajaya.

The firm is now the subject of different probes by the auditor-general, Parliament's Public Accounts Committee, Bank Negara and a joint investigation by police and the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission. – June 10, 2015.

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