

DAP tells Putrajaya to scrap roadshow, may end up like 'Nothing2Hide'
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Putrajaya should scrap its planned roadshows to explain current issues unless Datuk Seri Najib Razak is willing to answer if funds from 1Malaysia Development Fund (1MDB) had been used to indirectly bankroll the prime minister's 2013 election campaign, says DAP.

Its parliamentary leader, Lim Kit Siang, today said the roadshows could end up as disastrously like the "Nothing2Hide" forum earlier.

The forum which was held this month saw Najib backing out on the advice of Inspector General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar who ordered the forum be cancelled on the grounds of "public order and national harmony".

The dialogue session on 1MDB was postponed and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad instead took to the stage before the police stopped him from addressing more than 1,000 people at the venue.

"I would advise Putrajaya to scrap the nationwide roadshows as they will end up as disastrously as the 'Nothing2Hide' 1MDB Forum at the Putra World Trade Centre on June 5 where Najib ignominiously backed out of appearance because of Dr Mahathir's presence," Lim said in a statement.

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Ahmad Maslan earlier today said the roadshows were aimed at explaining current issues including the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), goods and services tax (GST) and 1MDB.

"The roadshows will not be held in state capitals but in strategic and suitable locations within the 14 states," he was quoted as saying by national news agency Bernama.

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) said debt-ridden 1MDB had indirectly supported Najib's campaign by purchasing power assets from Genting Group in 2012 for five times more than its worth.

Genting allegedly donated part of the earnings to a foundation controlled by Najib. According to WSJ, the foundation, Yayasan Rakyat 1 Malaysia (YR1M), then announced several charity projects that Najib later brought up during his campaign.

"Though set up to help underprivileged Malaysians through education and sport, this charity soon got involved in spending that appeared designed to help Najib retain power in the May 2013 election," said WSJ.

In a response to WSJ, the Prime Minister's Office said the claims were baseless. Lim said Najib's "thunderous silence" on the third day after WSJ's report did not brook well that the prime minister's credibility can recover with any "public relations

gimmickry" such as the planned nationwide roadshows.

"Why is Najib incapable of giving a detailed and convincing rebuttal to the Wall Street Journal's allegation?

"How can Najib expect to restore credibility if he is unable even to counter the Wall Street Journal expose on the third day of its publication?," he asked, adding that silence was no longer an option as it was tantamount to an admission of WSJ's report.

He urged Najib to immediately issue a convincing rebuttal to the report or announce he would personally appear before Public Accounts Committee, which was investigating 1MDB, and answer questions that arose from WSJ's report.

He also warned Najib that continued silence about the questions revolving around 1MDB would be enough to condemn him as the mastermind of the biggest financial scandal in the nation's history. – June 21, 2015.

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