

Anwar wants resolute action against main culprits in 1MDB scandal
The Malaysian Insider
July 23, 2015

1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said, even as authorities detained two individuals from companies linked to the state fund.

The de facto PKR leader said despite the arrests, the public would continue to remain sceptical of the authorities investigating the matter until the primary actors of the scandal are also dealt with.

"Although a couple of arrests have now been made, it is reasonable for the public to remain sceptical, until action is taken against the primary actors in this scandal," he said in a statement released through his lawyers yesterday.

"There must be resolute action to restore public and investor confidence; no stone must be left unturned. No one, no matter how high up, must be let off."

Anwar is believed to be referring to Datuk Seri Najib Razak, whose political image has taken a beating in recent months following reports and exposes on 1MDB, which have been damaging to the prime minister.

The Wall Street Journal reported on July 2 that billions of ringgit were transferred into Najib's personal bank accounts from 1MDB-linked entities.

The alleged wrongdoings were also taken up by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has called for Najib to step down.

Najib is also finance minister and chairman of 1MDB's advisory board.

Anwar also called on Malaysian authorities to work with international enforcement organisations to nab 1MDB key players who are overseas.

"The authorities must also work with international organisations such as Interpol, as some key players/witnesses are overseas," he said.

Several key figures linked to the 1MDB scandal include businessman Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, who was alleged to have schemed to cheat Malaysia of US\$1.83 billion through the debt-ridden state investment vehicle.

Jho Low is believed to be residing overseas.

Anwar, who is former opposition leader, said that the 1MDB scandal had exposed the "shocking" extent of mismanagement and corruption in the Barisan Nasional-led administration, adding that nothing had been done by the government about the matter despite it being highlighted since 2009.

"I had raised the mismanagement of 1MDB funds in Parliament since 2009, but

nothing was done by the government or Umno.

"Now the country faces billions in losses and international embarrassment, the value of the ringgit has plummeted and investor confidence shaken. This affects the financial well-being of every Malaysian, for which the BN must answer," he added.

1MDB sits on a RM42 billion debt within just six years of it being set up. 1MDB is currently the subject of inquiry by a number of authorities, including the auditor-general, Bank Negara, police and the bipartisan parliamentary Public Accounts Committee. – July 23, 2015

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