

## **Umno leader denies postponement of party polls due to 1MDB**

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**By Md Izwan**

The Umno supreme council's decision to postpone the party's election has nothing to do with the controversy surrounding troubled 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor said today.

The Umno secretary-general said the decision to delay the polls, initially scheduled for next year but pushed another 18 months, was made after taking into consideration views from the grassroots, highlighting several issues that needed to be resolved.

He, however, did not elaborate on the issues raised. The last party election was held in October 2013.

"No, no. It has nothing to do with any problems," he said, after he was asked if the delay was related to the arrest made by Thai police against a former director of PetroSaudi early this week.

He said that the decision to postpone party polls was made after a workshop that was held in Janda Baik where many of the party grassroots wanted the polls to be delayed.

"They suggested that we delay Umno elections by 18 months," he said.

He said that the period will be used to focus on general election preparations, with the next national polls expected to be called in 2017.

"Better to focus on current issues and also the election," he said.

Najib is currently trying to solve the controversy surrounding the state investment company, but criticism from his own Cabinet and former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has not helped his cause.

Dr Mahathir had said that BN will lose the next elections if Najib continues leading the coalition. – June 27, 2015

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