

**Don't use mosque funding to cover up 1MDB issue, PAS tells Najib**  
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Datuk Mahfuz Omar today urged Datuk Seri Najib Razak to stop saying 1Malaysia Development Berhad has contributed to the development of Islam in Malaysia, adding that the prime minister's statement was ridiculed by the public.

"The prime minister said 1MDB's contribution to Muslims is huge. It's as though he wants the people, especially Muslims, to forgive whatever 1MDB did, because 1MDB does good things, too," said Mahfuz who is PAS's Pokok Sena lawmaker.

"This kind of thinking is dangerous for human development."

He said Najib should not try to downplay controversies surrounding 1MDB by announcing the state-owned investment arm's funding for a redevelopment of a mosque in Kampung Baru.

Yesterday, Najib announced that Yayasan 1MDB would contribute RM20 million to redevelop the mosque, which will then become a "national landmark".

In a statement today, Mahfuz, the former PAS information chief, said Najib was sending out a wrong message, as though the controversies surrounding 1MDB could be "washed clean" with the mosque development.

"This is what 1MDB does, mismanagement caused it to rack up RM42 billion of debts, but they wash all this away by funding mosques and helping religious scholars complete their pilgrimages," he said.

"It's so easy to rule Malaysia. You can steal as much as you want, but when the robber contributes to the mosque, close the case."

He asked Najib not to use Ramadan sentiments to muzzle out all the questions surrounding the debt-laden firm, which is facing an audit by the auditor-general and also a probe by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). – June 28, 2015.

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