

**Kampung Baru mosque redevelopment announced 4 years ago, says 1MDB**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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Yayasan 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) has contributed funds to the redevelopment of a mosque in Kampung Baru since 2011, 1MDB said today, refuting reports that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had announced the project on Saturday.

The troubled state investment firm said Najib first announced the mosque redevelopment on February 5, 2011, and construction works began in 2012. The mosque is scheduled for completion by the end of next month, it said.

"Yayasan 1MDB has contributed RM20 million towards the mosque redevelopment project from its inception in 2011 to the present day. 1MDB regrets that various parties have resorted to using the mosque redevelopment project to serve their own agendas.

"The Kampung Baru mosque redevelopment is one of many CSR activities undertaken by Yayasan 1MDB, working with Malaysians across all races and religions," said 1MDB in a statement.

It said the construction was aimed at transforming the mosque into a vibrant community centre for Kampung Baru residents, and would serve as a key catalyst for the planned development of Kampung Baru.

Yesterday, The Malaysian Insider reported that Najib had announced on Saturday Yayasan 1MDB's intention to spend RM20 million to fund the mosque's redevelopments.

However, other news organisations reported Najib saying on Saturday that the mosque would be a national landmark due to the funds from 1MDB.

"I requested the help of Yayasan 1MDB which has received so much criticism in social media over the past two days. But this is 1MDB's contribution to Muslims, particularly in Kampung Baru," Najib was quoted as saying in Utusan Malaysia during a function at the mosque.

"It is a huge contribution, even though at first the budget was quite moderate. When it was implemented, the budget grew until finally it was RM20 million."

PAS lawmaker Datuk Mahfuz Omar urged in a statement yesterday for Najib to stop saying 1MDB had contributed to Islam's development, as it was attracting ridicule from the public.

Former Umno minister Tan Sri Zainuddin Maidin said Najib was "dumbing down" the Malays' intellect by using 1MDB funds for the mosque's redevelopment and called his

decision-making "illogical". – June 29, 2015.

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