

PAS has changed, says Guan Eng after Haron Din's defence of Najib
The Malaysian Insider
July 5, 2015
By Looi Sue-Chern

DAP today expressed surprise that PAS has defended embattled Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, who is now being accused of being the recipient of billions of ringgit in his personal accounts.

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng cited how PAS spiritual leader Datuk Dr Haron Din had defended Najib by describing the allegation reported in a Wall Street Journal article as "illogical".

He said even Umno ministers had not gone to such extent to defend their boss.

"Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal only urged Najib to explain the allegation and sue WSJ.

"They did not say the allegation was illogical. PAS is saying that (in defence of Najib). This is another indication that PAS under its new leadership has changed," he told reporters in Bagan on mainland Penang today.

Haron reportedly said the WSJ allegation was illogical because anyone taking public funds for his own use would have a secret account for them, instead of using his personal account. He added that there had been many reports on 1MDB and Najib but after explanations, many were found to be untrue.

His statement was reported on the front page of Mingguan Malaysia, an Umno-controlled Malay newspaper, today.

PAS, following its party elections last month, is now fully controlled by the conservative ulama faction that is pushing the Islamist party's hudud agenda.

At its general assembly last month, the new PAS leadership accepted without debate a motion by its Dewan Ulama to sever ties with DAP, which had been slamming the Islamist party over hudud.

On Friday, WSJ reported that government investigators probing into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) traced a cash flow of RM2.6 billion into Najib's account just before the general election in 2013.

Najib and his office had since strongly denied the allegation, calling it a political sabotage. He had also reportedly blamed his harshest critic, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad for it.

Lim said despite the severity of the 1MDB controversy and Najib being directly linked to the scandal for the first time, it now appeared that its once ally, PAS, was not

interested in economic issues.

"Not only is PAS not interested, although they may be inexperienced, they are now seem unconcerned about the issues affecting 1MDB.

"It seems that they are more interested to work with Umno to form a unity government. PAS has really changed a lot.

"It is up to the people to decide if PAS is still a party that fights Barisan Nasional," said Lim, who is Bagan MP and also Penang chief minister. – July 5, 2015.

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