

Putrajaya can't evade 1MDB by suspending The Edge, says ex-Umno youth leader

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Putrajaya cannot evade questions regarding 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) by suspending The Edge, former Johor Umno Youth vice-chief Datuk Khairul Anwar Rahmat said today.

He described the three-month suspensions on The Edge Weekly and The Edge Financial Daily for their 1MDB reportage as a "stone age" decision.

"For sure, actions like suspending printing licences is a stone age or dinosaur decision, a backward decision," he told The Malaysian Insider.

"The more this is done, the more it appears that we do not practise media freedom and as a former journalist, I believe this view is shared by my former colleagues, be they from mainstream or alternative media," he said.

He said that blocking the source of information will only trigger people's curiosity.

"We can't block people's thinking, they will find other sources of information," he said.

He said the suspension, coupled with the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission's (MCMC) decision to block Sarawak Report, would only spur the people to look for alternative ways to access information.

Khairul, who organised the botched Nothing2Hide forum during which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak did not show up despite an undertaking to answer 1MDB-related questions, said the government must answer questions on the state firm.

"The authorities should answer instead of blocking the source of information," he said.

Khairul, who held several positions in Johor Umno Youth, recently resigned all his posts following the fallout from the Nothing2Hide forum.

He said he resigned in order to focus on expanding his law firm.

The Edge will file a judicial review against the suspensions tomorrow, and maintains that it did not do anything that breached its licensing conditions. – July 26, 2015.

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