

Gani's sacking points to desperate move by Najib, says Sarawak PKR chief

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By Desmond Davidson

Embattled Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is desperately trying to consolidate his position amidst the damaging exposes implicating him in the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandals, PKR Sarawak chief Baru Bian said.

He said this today in response to the sudden "retirement" of Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail as the Attorney-General at the same time as the replacement of Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin as the deputy prime minister.

"So sudden was this move that even the discarded A-G was caught by surprise when he learnt that he was in ill health and hence retiring.

"Given that Abdul Gani is due to retire in October, there is no good reason to get rid of him three months prematurely," Baru said.

The Ba Kelalan assemblyman said the haste with which Gani was summarily removed raises many questions, "to which we hope he will provide the answers."

"The fact that his replacement comes at a time when the 1MDB investigation is still being carried out adds to the suspicion held by many that the prime minister does not want the truth to be revealed.

"There are also questions as to whether his removal was carried out legitimately in accordance with constitutional safeguards."

Baru, a lawyer, said what concerned him more was the track record of Gani's successor, Federal Court judge Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali.

Baru said the man chosen "does not engender any confidence in us (Sarawakians) that he will protect the interest of all Malaysians regardless of race and religion".

"His appointment as the new A-G does not bode well for us.

"He is known to be an Umno man, and stood in the 1990 General Elections in Pengkalan Chepa where he lost to the Semangat 46 candidate.

Baru said the online news portal, Malaysiakini, once reported that "due to his involvement in Umno prior to being appointed a judge, many people, including former opposition leader (Datuk Seri) Anwar Ibrahim, have applied for Apandi not to sit in any of the panels hearing their cases".

"On the bench, he led the Court of Appeal panel in the Allah appeal that handed down

a decision based on spurious grounds that is detrimental to the rights of Bahasa Malaysia-speaking Christians."

Sarawak DAP chairman Chong Chieng Jen, however, was delighted with Gani's sacking.

"It should have been done a long time ago," Chong said today.

"Good riddance to bad rubbish," Chong told a group of reporters at his party headquarters in Padungan.

The Bandar Kuching MP said Gani was unfit to be the AG because he was never independent.

"Gani's selective prosecution of key opposition leaders like Anwar and DAP's Karpal Singh showed he was never independent and why he should have been sacked a long time ago." Chong said. – July 28, 2015

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