

Najib's political survival reason for Muhyiddin sacking, says PAS deputy president
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has proven that his political survival surpassed all else with his Cabinet reshuffle booting out critics within the government, Datuk Tuan Ibrahim Tuan Man said today.

The PAS deputy president, in a statement today pointed out that Najib was following the tactics of former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad closely when he boldly removed his deputy Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Tuan Ibrahim, who also called the new line-up a pro-1MDB Cabinet, warned Najib that the scenario now was different than in Dr Mahathir's time due to the existence of online social media.

Dr Mahathir, Malaysia's longest serving prime minister, replaced his deputy three times with Tun Musa Hitam resigning in 1986, Tun Ghafar Baba in 1993 and Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who was sacked in 1998.

He said that during Dr Mahathir's era, there were also various financial scandals such as the RM30 billion loss in foreign exchange trading in 1992, Perwaja Steel and Malaysia Airlines (MAS), but managed to stay in power for 22 years.

"Let us not fall for drama put together to divert our attention from 1MDB. The new Cabinet is a pro-1MDB Cabinet. Whatever it is, PAS will continue to fight Umno and its tyranny against the people," he said.

Tuan Ibrahim also pondered over Muhyiddin's subsequent fate, asking whether the latter would survive as Umno's deputy president in the next 48 hours.

"If not, will there be a revolt by Umno in Johor, a stronghold of the party, as the 14th general election approaches?" he said, referring to Muhyiddin's home state, where he has strong grassroots support.

Tuan Ibrahim also pondered over the prospects of newly-appointed Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

"Will he become the new prime minister should Najib fail to survive a no-confidence vote in Parliament?"

Following the removal of several Cabinet members who had questioned and criticised Najib over the handling of the 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) scandal, as well as former Attorney-General Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail from office today, Tuan Ibrahim also expressed scepticism whether the authorities would ever investigate Najib now.

"Will the new A-G (Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali) now have the guts to make sure Najib is called for investigation over 1MDB?" he said, adding that he also wondered if there would be Umno reps rejecting their Cabinet appointments.

His question was directed at newly-appointed Deputy Home Minister Datuk Nur Jazlan Mohamed, who is the current chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which is also investigating the controversial 1Malaysia Development Berhad, which had damaged the reputation of Najib's administration.

"Will Nur Jazlan be able to guarantee that there will be no pressure on the PAC to remove DAP MP Tony Pua, who has been very vocal on 1MDB, from the committee?"

"Will there be any directives to cancel the need for 1MDB's president Arul Kanda Kandasamy and former chief executive officer Datuk Shahrol Azral Ibrahim Halimi to present themselves to the committee?"

Another three PAC members – Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican, Datuk Mas Ermeyati Samsudin and Datuk Wilfred Madius Tangau – have also been appointed into the Cabinet. This has since caused the PAC to halt its proceedings, including its 1MDB probe, for August.

Tuan Ibrahim also questioned how the value of the ringgit and Bursa Malaysia would react to the latest development this week and said the people should not be shocked if petrol prices go down on August 1 to make them feel good for a while following the Cabinet reshuffle.

Security threat used to save 1MDB

Meanwhile, Gerakan Harapan Baru (GHB) central committee member and Penang chairman Datuk Dr Mujahid Yusof Rawa also expressed concerns that the latest development would cause a confidence crisis and instability to the nation.

"Getting rid of Muhyiddin because he made open criticisms about 1MDB will make people distrust the investigation involving the state investment fund and the prime minister himself.

"Terminating the A-G who was looking into the investigations will also jeopardise trust when the executive is seen to be meddling with the probes. Appointing Nur Jazlan as a member of the executive will also hamper the 1MDB investigation and give the impression that they want to close the case."

Mujahid also said the appointment of Zahid, who is the Home Minister, as deputy prime minister was also raising concerns that Najib would use a security threat as an issue to save 1MDB.

The Parit Buntar MP proposed that a special Parliament session should be held immediately for all members of the legislative to meet and address the disorder.

He said there was need for a reconciliation initiative to set the foundation to institutionalise reform, to identify problems and propose remedial measures.

“We need Parliament reforms so we can truly function to balance the powers of the executive and the judiciary. We need a reconciliation government involving all political parties.

“For the three steps to be successful, the main condition is to have the prime minister step down to regain the people’s trust in the administration. Only then will we also be able to have a fair and clean general election,” he said. – July 28, 2015.

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