

Najib stopped 1MDB probes as he can't handle task force members, says Dr Mahathir
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Datuk Seri Najib Razak decided to stop all investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and his private accounts as the investigators were too independent and he could not control them, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"Najib was clearly uncomfortable with the investigations carried out by the task force. The members seemed to be too independent. Najib could not control them.

"The task force was apparently determined to seek the truth about 1MDB and the RM2.6 billion in Najib's accounts. Najib's claim that it was a donation was not convincing," the former prime minister said in his latest blog posting.

He said Najib then decided to take action to stop the investigations on 1MDB and his private accounts, by firstly announcing that people should stop talking about 1MDB.

He said Najib's statement was not just a hint, but an open statement that such talk would be regarded as undermining democracy and an attempt to overthrow an elected leader.

This, Dr Mahathir added, would attract police attention who in turn would carry out an investigation.

Dr Mahathir (pic, left) said not long after, Tan Sri Abdul Gani Patail, who was heading the special government task force, was sacked as the attorney-general.

He noted that Gani would have been in a position to charge Najib if there was evidence of criminality in the prime minister's possession of the billions of ringgit in his accounts.

With the removal of Gani, it meant that no decision could be made over the unprecedented wealth of Najib.

"A judge was made A-G, and clearly he is not interested in the task force and its investigations. He seemed determined to clear Najib," said Dr Mahathir, referring to the new Attorney-General, Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali, who replaced Gani on July 27.

The high-level government task force investigating 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) was disbanded and the three main agencies were ordered to work independently, the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) announced last Wednesday.

MACC said it wanted to allay concerns that it had issued a statement on the RM2.6 billion channelled into the prime minister's accounts without the involvement of the

police and Bank Negara Malaysia, which was the original composition of the task force headed by Gani.

"The MACC did not make the announcement through the task force after the attorney-general advised us that there was no need for a special task force," it said referring to the new A-G's advice.

Dr Mahathir noted the loss of four members of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), including its chairman, following the Cabinet reshuffle.

"Effectively, the PAC was paralysed and the work of investigating 1MDB stopped. Then the chief and deputy chief of MACC, a member of the task force of four were asked to go on leave," he wrote, adding that there are rumours of the Bank Negara governor and a member of the task force being investigated for corruption.

Dr Mahathir wrote that when some MACC officers continued their investigations and wanted to query Najib on the source of the money in his account, they were harassed by the police who accused them of leaking information.

While he did not refer to them by name, Dr Mahathir said some were transferred to the Prime Minister's Department to shut them up.

This morning, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the transfer order on MACC's director of special operations Datuk Bahri Mohamad Zin and its strategic communications director Datuk Rohaizad Yaakob was rescinded. – August 10, 2015.

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