

How long to wait for results of 1MDB probe, asks Muhyiddin
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By Md Izwan

Despite being admonished by his party colleagues, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin continued with his criticism against his boss, Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Razak, asking how long Malaysians have to wait for the probes into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) to be completed.

The Umno deputy president said the public was losing its patience over the matter and urged that the investigations into the troubled state-owned firm be completed as soon as possible.

"The prime minister said wait, wait, wait. How long more to wait? Until the moon falls into our laps?" he asked when opening the Pontian Umno division meeting in Pontian Kechil today.

The former deputy prime minister said investigations into 1MDB started some time ago, and does not discount the fact that this would cause people to lose trust in further explanations by Putrajaya on the issue.

He said there must be a reasonable time limit.

"Once that is passed, you can say whatever you want, we will not believe you," he said.

At the same time, the Pagoh MP said there should not be any interference in the investigations although the special task force has been disbanded.

The special task force, comprising the police, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Bank Negara Malaysia and the Attorney-General Chambers, was initially tasked to investigate the Finance ministry owned firm and the RM2.6 billion "donation" in Najib's personal accounts, but it was disbanded after Tan Sri Mohamed Apandi Ali was appointed as the new Attorney-General.

"I fully support investigations into 1MDB although there is no longer the special task force. The special task force was disrupted, we don't know why. They want to work, don't bother them," he said.

Berita Harian reported today that Umno leaders have slammed Muhyiddin for questioning the whereabouts of the balance of the RM2.6 billion "donation" in Najib's personal accounts, saying that this would only cause the Malay ruling party members to be "confused" and will lead to further splits.

1MDB, which has amassed a RM42 billion debt in just six years of operations, is being probed by the Auditor-General who has submitted an interim report to the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), while a full report is expected to be

tabled by year's end.

The PAC was also looking through 1MDB's operations and alleged financial irregularities, but its inquiry was suspended after four of its members, including its chairman, were elevated to the government in a cabinet reshuffle late last month.

New appointments to the panel will only take place when Parliament reconvenes in October 19.

At the same time, Bank Negara said it has completed its investigations into 1MDB and has submitted a report to the Attorney-General with a recommendation for "appropriate enforcement action".

Muhyiddin today also urged the attorney-general to begin prosecutions if he had enough basis and evidence, and noted that both Bank Negara and the MACC had submitted their investigation papers.

"The attorney-general must take action if there is a case. If not, close the case.

"There should be no change of attorney-general again after this," he said.

Muhyiddin said the problems afflicting the country had caused the people to lose faith in the government.

"If this goes on, the people will say all the leaders are the same. No one is brave enough to speak up for the people. There is a 'silent syndrome'. I don't want to be one of them."

Muhyiddin was dropped from the Cabinet following his vocal criticism of 1MDB, which is wholly owned by the Finance Ministry and has amassed RM42 billion in debts since its inception six years ago. – August 16, 2015.

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