

Action against MACC suggests hidden hand impeding 1MDB probe, says Utusan
The Malaysian Insider
August 9, 2015

The raids and arrests at the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC), as well as the sudden transfer of two of its directors, gives the impression there is a hidden hand trying to impede investigations into 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), said Umno mouthpiece Utusan Malaysia.

The assistant editor of its weekend edition *Mingguan Malaysia*, Ku Seman Ku Hussain, said the actions would fuel the perception that the results of the investigations will not be pleasant.

"Even if there is a need for transfer, why not wait until MACC special operations division director (Datuk) Bahri Mohamad Zin completes his investigations.

"From this, we can conclude that Bahri is so 'valuable' that he has to be silenced.

"It gives the impression that it is a desperate, panic move, with no strategy and also gives an impression that there is a mastermind and hidden hand out to cripple the investigation which has taken a long time," he said.

Ku Seman said the people will appreciate all the work by MACC officers, saying the public will not be fooled by propaganda from certain parties.

He said Malaysians are aware that tackling corruption is not easy and they were praying for the MACC staff.

"To all MACC staff, your work and sacrifices are honourable, we the people who are perceived to be stupid will continue to look up to you.

"Although we are peasants and without power, we are not easily fooled," he said.

To date, seven MACC officers have been picked up by police for questioning since last weekend, while some had their homes and offices raided, as police focused on leaked information on 1MDB, which is at the centre of an investigation over alleged financial irregularities.

The police action followed The Wall Street Journal's (WSJ) report last month citing documents from Malaysian investigators which showed that US\$700 million (RM2.6 billion) had been deposited in prime minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's personal bank accounts.

Najib has denied taking 1MDB funds for personal use, but never directly addressed the fund transfers.

On Monday, MACC confirmed the existence of the huge sum, but said it came from a

Middle Eastern donor, and not from 1MDB.

MACC did not reveal the identity of the donor, but said it would ask Najib to provide an explanation on the donation.

The police actions have been slammed by opposition leaders and civil society leaders who rallied behind MACC.

Even Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Paul Low criticised the police over the raids at MACC.

On Friday, MACC Special operations division director Datuk Bahri Mohamad Zin and strategic communications director Datuk Rohaizad Yaakob were transferred to the Prime Minister's Department with immediate effect.

Bahri had been vocal in his comments against the police for their actions in their probe into the leak.

It is understood that both were transferred for their "hard hitting" statements following the police raids.

Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said yesterday that the police have temporarily postponed their probe into MACC to avoid public perceptions.

"With a variety of assumptions and perceptions having been made, I have ordered for the temporary postponement of the case," he was quoted by Bernama.

Khalid defended the police action, saying his men never wanted to interfere with any investigations, let alone target any particular institution, especially the MACC. – August 9, 2015.

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