

Why sack me when I aired my views politely, asks Muhyiddin
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By Hasbullah Awang Chik

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin today questioned his sacking from the Cabinet, saying that he had always been respectful in his criticism of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The Umno deputy president said he had all the qualities Najib needed in a right-hand man, but he was dropped from Cabinet simply because he questioned 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB).

"Anyone can air their views. They can even slam the table. But try asking the party president, have I ever slammed the table in front of him?"

"I have always been polite, even my style seems rather foolish. I don't slam tables, nor do I even raise my voice.

"I air my views politely. Is that wrong? Then why get rid of me?"

"Never mind, that is the prime minister's prerogative. If he's not happy, never mind. We respect that," he said in his speech at the Petaling Jaya Utara Umno Youth delegates meeting.

Muhyiddin said he had always been outspoken as a member of Umno and the government administration and there was no need for anyone to restrain him.

And now that he had been sacked from Cabinet, he said there was nothing to hold him further from speaking the truth.

"I have been with Umno for 40 years, and of that, 37 years in government. Why must I now be careful? I will continue to speak up. What else do I have, except my voice?" he said.

Muhyiddin, who also lost his post as education minister, said there was no other reason than his criticism of 1MDB that had caused him to be removed from the administration.

But he said he had only raised the matter to Najib using formal administration and party platforms.

There was no truth to rumours that he was conspiring with the opposition to bring down Najib, he added.

"I want to explain this because there are those who say it was not about 1MDB, that it was about other issues. There is no other issue. There is no plot," said Muhyiddin, who is also the Pagoh MP.

Muhyiddin said that Najib only told him about the RM2.6 billion in his personal accounts, as alleged by The Wall Street Journal, after the news had been published.

"When he told me, of course I asked how much it involved, and who gave it? Can't I not do that? As deputy party president, surely I should know of such matters," he said.

Muhyiddin disclosed Najib's admission to him about the money in his accounts in a video that was leaked online, the day after he was sacked from Cabinet on July 28.

The video of him speaking to a group of people was shot at his home where he was receiving visitors after the cabinet reshuffle. – August 9, 2015.

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