

If innocent, no need to interfere in 1MDB probe
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By Joe Fernandez

Sacked Deputy Prime Minister and Umno Deputy President Muhyiddin Yassin has brought the 1MDB issue back to centre stage.

KUALA LUMPUR: A political analyst concedes in a blog posting that sacked Deputy Prime Minister and Umno Deputy President Muhyiddin Yassin has no doubt brought the 1MDB scandal back to centre stage by lobbying a question at embattled Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak: "Why interfere in the investigations (into 1MDB)?"

"It remains to be seen whether Najib is man enough to open up. So far, he has evaded the issue when not remaining silent. This time, he cannot avoid answering questions raised because they come from his party number two."

Muhyiddin was speaking at Bicara Minda – Berani Kerana Benar (Meeting of Minds – Brave because of the Truth) programme sponsored by Sinar Harian in Johor Baru on Saturday. He referred to tycoon T. Ananda Krishnan providing 1MDB with a RM2 billion loan, and disclosed that the trouble-stricken company wanted RM3 billion from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) after that but the request was shot down by the Cabinet.

"The people only want to see the investigations into 1MDB being conducted smoothly, without any further delay, and the results made known," Shahbudin Husin quoted Muhyiddin as saying. "If there's no wrongdoing, there's no wrongdoing. If someone is guilty, then he's guilty and must be punished."

"The truth will eventually emerge, falsehoods will be buried in time, sooner or latter."

If Najib is a "gentleman", said the analyst, he will also respond to another of Muhyiddin's statements:

"If not guilty, don't interfere with the investigations". "If Najib does not respond or fails to explain, he will continue to be suspect in the eyes of the people, and the perception of him in the public mind will not be good."

"Only Najib can give a suitable reply since he's involved intimately with the company."

It won't do, added the analyst, if the Deputy Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary or the Attorney-General or others step forward to respond to Muhyiddin. "If there's no response to Muhyiddin's questions and statements it will be seen as covering up wrongdoing and sweeping them under the carpet to protect whoever is involved."

Although it's said that the investigations would continue under the Attorney-General and the new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), he noted, it won't be like before under the multi agency special Task Force.

“Muhyiddin did remind those present at the gathering that Najib went after the authorities concerned and others who came too close in their investigations into wrongdoing.”

“Suddenly, it appeared that Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail was in poor health and had to be removed. Former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has never failed to question the official version on Gani Patail as given by the Chief Secretary. So far, no one has responded to him.”

There have also been many arrests, for example 1MDB subsidiary Ihsan Perdana CEO Shamsul Anwar Sulaiman and a despatch boy, continued the analyst.

“We no longer hear anything about their cases which were handled by the special Task Force.”

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