

PAS wants Najib to quit as finance minister
Malaysian Insider
Nov 3, 2014
BY EILEEN NG

Following former finance minister Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah's open letter last week criticising Putrajaya's handling of the economy, a PAS lawmaker now wants Datuk Seri Najib Razak to quit as finance minister and hand over the post to an experienced candidate.

Raja Kamarul Bahrin Shah Raja Ahmad (PAS - Kuala Terengganu) said Malaysia needed a full-time finance minister to realise its ambition to achieve developed nation status by 2020.

Currently, the country is facing numerous problems such as racial-religious strife, high crime rates and economic slowdown, all of which need Najib's full attention, he said.

"As such, it is better for Najib to let go of his finance minister post to focus on the current problems," he said at the parliament lobby today.

In his six-page letter which was distributed to all federal lawmakers last week, Tengku Razaleigh had said that Putrajaya must be sensitive of factors that could lead to the downfall of the economy, including laws such as the Official Secrets Act and the Universities and University Colleges Act.

The veteran Umno leader had said that the government should think about postponing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to a time when the economy was more stable and firm.

Putrajaya, he had pointed out, was turning a deaf ear to the concerns of the people and was not listening to them.

"The budget every year seems to belittle a problem that needs urgent attention.

"There is so much criticism in Parliament and also from the public through social media, but government leaders are completely deaf to the cracks in our economy with an attitude of not caring," he had said in the letter.

Raja Kamarul Bahrin said Najib should give his full attention to ensure Malaysia is on track to achieve developed nation status.

This can be done by making the country more inclusive and innovative including allowing institutions of higher learning to have the freedom of expression as well as

having an independent and well respected judiciary. – November 3, 2014.

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