

Don't use 1MDB as political tool to unseat government, says Najib
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By Anisah Shukry

Malaysians should not turn the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) issue into a referendum to change the government, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today.

He said public support was needed for 1MDB's issues to be resolved and that further attacks against the debt-laden state investment arm would only worsen the situation.

"When you support the leadership, God willing we will overcome all the political and economic challenges – even the 1MDB problem can be resolved. If everyone is attacking it, susahlah kita (it will be hard for us).

"Don't allow 1MDB to be a political platform. Allow 1MDB to be resolved, if there are wrongdoings, let the PAC (Public Accounts Committee) find out. But don't allow it to be a political platform just because you want to change the government," Najib said at the Gerakan annual national delegates' conference in Shah Alam.

Earlier today, Gerakan president Datuk Mah Siew Keong in his policy address had said it was in the nation's interest for 1MDB to be investigated thoroughly and speedily.

He said many Malaysians were unconvinced by the numerous press statements 1MDB issued clarifying the allegations levelled against it.

"We must improve our communication efforts and more importantly, to restore public confidence, the PAC, as a bipartisan set-up, has to be quickly reconstituted and proceed with its investigation," said Mah.

But Najib today said that the government had faced worse turmoil in the past, including the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

"We went through more difficult situation in the past but eventually, we recovered.

"We recovered because we believed in the government. We support the leadership."
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