

Najib should be charged with sabotage, not 1MDB critic, says Dr Mahathir
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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is the one who should be charged with sabotaging the nation's banking and financial system, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today, and not whistleblowers Datuk Seri Khairuddin Abu Hassan and his lawyer Matthias Chang.

He said the creators of debt-ridden state strategic development fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and its management were the people who sabotaged the country, which previously had sound financial management and banking system.

"They are the people who should be charged in court for sabotage of the Malaysian banking and financial systems.

"Since it was Najib who created 1MDB, borrowed RM42 billion and invested the money and losing it, he should also be charged with sabotage," he said in a blog posting today.

"Alternatively, everyone, from the initial set-up of 1MDB to the borrowing, to the newspaper reporters and the reports to the police should all be charged with sabotage of Malaysia's financial and banking systems."

Najib is also finance minister and chairman of 1MDB's advisory board.

Khairuddin and Chang were both charged last month with attempting to sabotage the Malaysian economy, and the country's financial and banking system.

Khairuddin, the former Batu Kawan Umno division vice-chairman, was accused of sabotaging the country after it was discovered that he lodged reports with investigators in Hong Kong, Switzerland, France and the United Kingdom over the 1MDB scandal.

Chang is his lawyer.

The duo was charged under the Penal Code, which upon conviction carries a jail term of up to 15 years.

Dr Mahathir said he was confused with the charge against Khairuddin and Chang, who was his former political aide, as they had lodged reports against 1MDB long after news reports were published on the state-owned investment vehicle's alleged mismanagements.

"But the publication by the foreign press of the shenanigans in the investments by 1MDB came out long before Khairuddin reported.

"These news reports were not casual reports but were very detailed descriptions of what and who were involved. They were reporting on what is well known to the whole world.

"Why were these newspaper reports not satisfactorily rebutted by 1MDB or the Finance Ministry since the impression created about Malaysia's alleged abuses of the financial and banking systems could result ultimately in the loss of confidence in Malaysia's political and economic health and its financials?"

The former prime minister, who is Najib's supporter-turned-detractor, said there would not have been any press reports or police complaints if there had been no 1MDB and the RM42 billion it has amassed in debts, just six years since its inception.

"1MDB may sell the RM60 per square feet land that it bought from the government at 5,000% above the purchase price and repay the loans.

"But the fact remains that had 1MDB not been created, the huge sum of borrowed money would not have disappeared. For this 1MDB and those responsible must still be charged for abuses of the banking and financial system, repayment of the loans notwithstanding." – November 2, 2015.

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